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Vol. CXCVIII, No. 2590
SEPTEMBER 24, 1949

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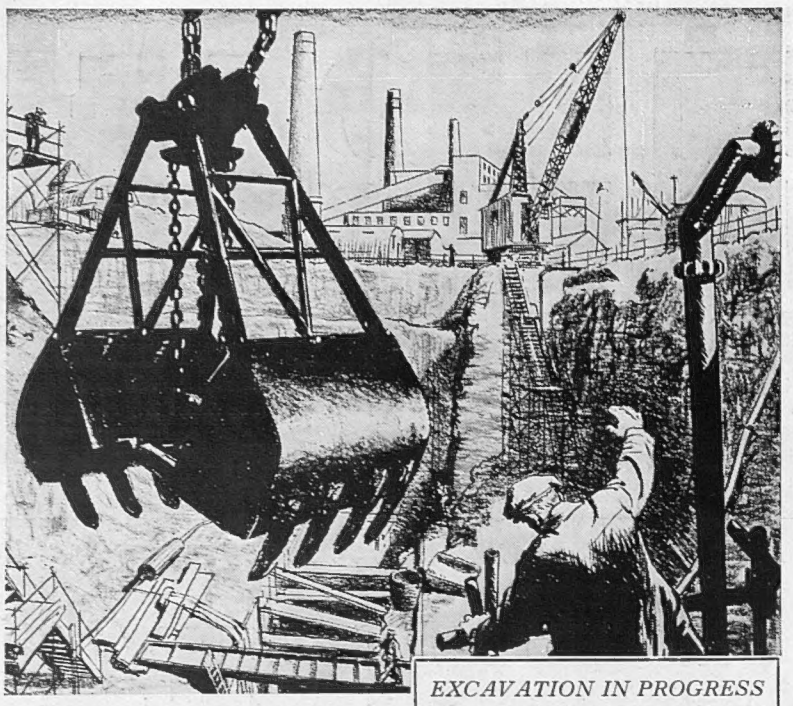

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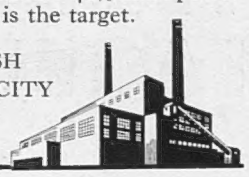

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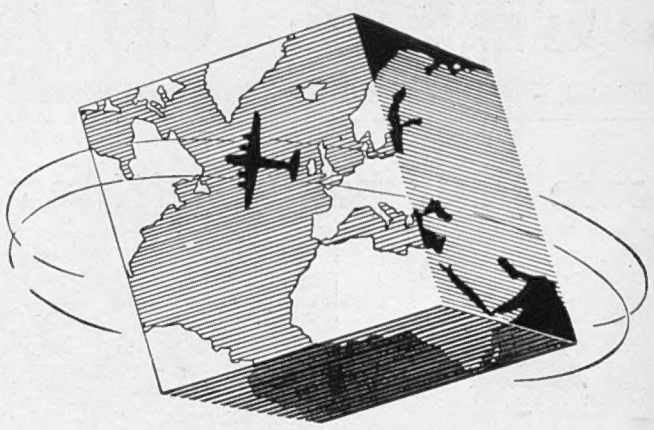

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Volume CXCVIII No. 2590

The SPHERE, London, September 24, 1949

The SPHERE

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE GRAPHIC"

THE EMPIRE'S ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

THE MORNING AFTER DEVALUATION—THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE WAS OFFICIALLY CLOSED, BUT CITY BROKERS AND JOBBERS PACKED THE STREET, DOING A VAST UNOFFICIAL BUSINESS IN GOLD SHARES AND THE SHARES OF DOLLAR-EARNING COMPANIES: Devaluation did not altogether surprise the City, but the announcement made necessary a host of adjustments. Many millions were added to the value of Witwatersrand shares

Eighteen years ago almost to the day—it was Sunday, September 20, 1931—Britain's Labour Government decided to suspend the Gold Standard after weeks of rumour and counter-rumour, which led to the biggest financial crisis of the years between the wars. Last Sunday night Sir Stafford Cripps, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, came to the microphone at 10, Downing Street, after the 9 o'clock news bulletin, and told the world that Britain had devalued the £1 from 4·03 to 2·80 dollars. Sir Stafford announced also that there would be a rise in the cost of living, the 4½d. loaf rising to 6d., and he indicated a possible rise in the prices of other commodities in the months ahead. It was arranged that last Monday the Banks and the Stock Exchange should remain closed, but as this picture shows there was great activity in the City, share dealings being described as unofficial. Many other European countries followed Britain's devaluation lead, notably the Scandinavian bloc, and, among Dominion countries, Australia, South Africa (which received a bonus with the higher price of gold) and New Zealand kept in step with the march of the pound. Canada deferred her decision until Monday. Sir Stafford's announcement brought to an end a period of uncertainty, which had done much to harm British trade in recent weeks, and it was hoped that, as a result, export goods over a wide range would find a more ready acceptance in American markets.

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A LONDON NEWSLETTER

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

The Premier.—Recently more than one among our leading London and provincial dailies have devoted long "leaders" to a critical study of the Prime Minister—a rather rare occurrence in journalism except when the appraisal is valedictory or wholly flattering. These studies of Mr. Attlee were neither. The fact is that the nation and its Press—not without reason—believes that it is in a pass as critical economically as it was critical militarily in the darkest days of 1940-41. In those days the nation was stimulated to incredible endeavours and welded into unity by the constant inspiration supplied by Mr. Churchill's oratory, directed to impressing on us in the frankest, baldest way the gravity of our danger and to compelling us to sacrifice cheerfully even life itself for the common good. Moreover (as we know now from reading Mr. Churchill's war memoirs), despite the unparalleled strain of his daily work, he was for ever issuing directives and correctives to the heads of every department of State, short notes and suggestions which in the shortest possible time were usually translated into action and policy. His clear eye and firm hand were on every department. Mr. Attlee's methods are very different. If he is a peace-time Premier, it is a peace curiously like war and with 80 per cent. of its danger—at least economically. One of his methods is to leave it to his chosen departmental chiefs to work out their schemes without interference from him. And it is fair to say that many a successful general has been acclaimed for that very power of detachment, trust and loyalty. Mr. Attlee is a man of few words and those usually pointful and shrewd. How often we have prayed for such a quality in a British Minister and how seldom our prayers have been answered!

The General who "Went Fishing."—For decades (we ruefully declare) we have been drowned and battered with warnings and pronouncements by Ministers on every conceivable subject within or far outside their purview, and logically we should welcome a silent first Minister. But, in fact, the soberest and fairest pundits conclude that in our present crisis Mr. Attlee has been too silent, too little meddlesome, and perhaps has coated the bitter pill with a little more sugar than the times warrant. It is my belief that Mr. Attlee will go down to history as a Premier without a parallel in the long catalogue of British Prime Ministers. We have had some bad ones, such as Addington and Grafton, and we have hurled barbs of scorn at them. We have had some whose reputations were enormous and whose permanent achievements are yet hard to seek. And we have had perhaps half-a-dozen who figure in the short list of the world's greatest men. Mr. Attlee is no Addington, and no Pitt, certainly. But neither is he a Balfour or a Baldwin. He has created a new technique of Premiership—he is an admirable chairman of committees, who wastes no words, is chary of exhortations, puts his finger on the point of a report or proposal as quick as any man and leaves it to his specialists and chief lieutenants to work out their appropriate tasks without directive or interference. Small, insignificant and rarely recognised in a crowd (and, if recognised, seldom saluted or cheered); he is certainly no Addington, certainly not a man to be despised or ridiculed. But I doubt if he "would have done" as Premier between 1940-45, and I am not sure that he is quite the man for the economic crisis of 1949-52 which we believe to be hardly less dangerous. The nation is in crying need of leadership—of leadership of a dramatic, almost romantic kind. In Mr. Attlee's case, the choice of lieutenants was limited, and in the nature of his campaign no strategic plan can be final or concrete for long. For the whole nature of the battle may alter in an hour.

T.U. Congress.—From Bridlington, the scene of the T.U. Congress, I hoped for a gross of brass tacks and no bravura. Sir W. Lawther opened boldly enough with a commonplace—Trade Unionism, he said, was at the "parting of the ways." The phrase usually implies a very serious choice—right or left, right or wrong. The impression left on me by the earlier reported speeches and decisions was that the majority elected to follow that branch of the road which looked most like the old. It is well enough to condemn unofficial strikes and to damn Communism. It is a confession of failure by Trade Unionism to call for Government action to combat such strikes; it is muddled thinking as well, since the means at the disposal of any Government for taking such action are legislative measures utterly detestable to T.U.s. The Trades Union movement came into being to organise and discipline labour so as to enable it to win its just claims for decent wages, decent living and working conditions, and such security of employment as all honest workmen deserve in the long struggle against rapacious and heartless employers and against weak and apathetic Governments. In the last decade its whole nature and *raison d'être* have changed. For one thing, the State itself is now very largely the employer, and for another, the cardinal principles of the movement have been largely forgotten. The T.U. was designed to organise and discipline its member-workers to secure their *just* claims—the fit reward for honest labour. Yes, but that implied a contract between employer and employed: we will do our *quid* and you must concede our *quo*, freely given or extracted by the force we can bring to bear. To-day much of the authority which remains to a T.U. has vanished through the very remoteness of its control over its members. Trades Unionism is a political co-partner with a Labour Government and is more concerned with political organisation and political pressure than with self-discipline.

"L'État, c'est Moi!".—Then, as now, ever since the industrial revolution killed the craftsmen and substituted work of a mechanical and dreary kind, men work no longer than they must—for man is by nature lazy and pleasure-loving. And as the dullness of the common task has grown greater, so the need for enforcing the contract between employer and employed has increased in importance. And when the "greedy employer" becomes the State, the failure of self-discipline is revealed in a new form, as lack of patriotism. The influence of Trade Unionism is still potentially enormous. It recognises it. It can with some justification claim: "*L'État, c'est moi!*" But its influence is directed in the wrong direction and the slogan has a double meaning. Organised labour, properly disciplined, can make, save and be the State. Undisciplined, it can destroy it. It was disappointing, therefore, to hear so little criticism from within of loss of control among the Unions, and so much glorification of the policy of full employment and of the "trivial" loss of working hours due to strikes in comparison with the First World War's post-war years. For with those advantages present, there is less justification for claiming merit for our industrial production. I confess I should have welcomed from Bridlington a clarion call to all honest workmen to think more of the welfare of the nation and less of their own welfare.

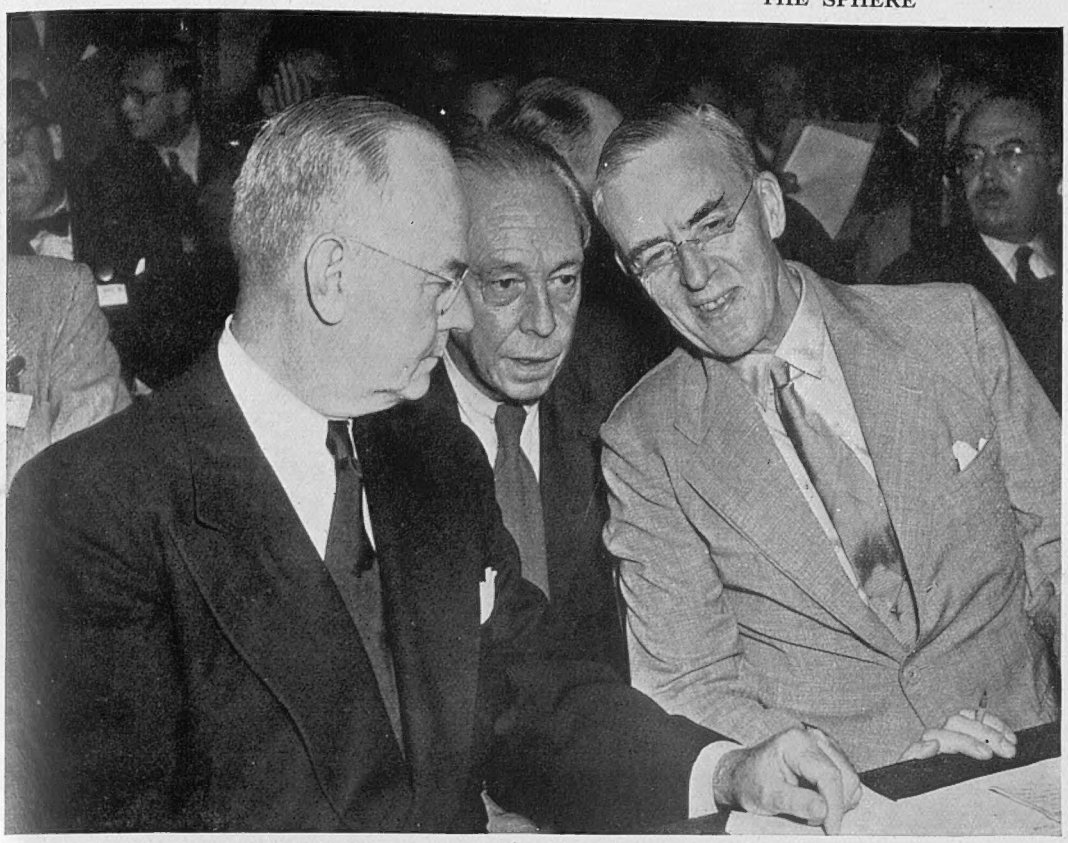
THE DOLLAR TALKS IN WASHINGTON—THE BRITISH, CANADIAN AND AMERICAN LEADERS, WHO HAVE AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER TO PUT THE STERLING AREA ON A BASIS OF PAYING ITS WAY BY 1952: They undertook also to implement a series of measures easing the dollar crisis by ending the drain on British gold and dollar reserves, and the decision to devalue the £ was kept a closely-guarded secret until last Sunday night when Sir Stafford made his announcement from No. 10 Downing Street, where the B.B.C. had installed a microphone. Left to right are: Sir Oliver Franks (British Ambassador in U.S.), Sir Staffords Cripps, Mr. Dean Acheson, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Mr. John Snyder (who presided), Mr. Douglas Abbott (Canadian Finance Minister), Mr. Lester B. Pearson (Canadian Minister of External Affairs), Mr. Humphrey Hume Wrong (Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.), and Mr. Paul Hoffman (Marshall Aid Administrator)

The Acid Test of Sincerity.—Nevertheless, the nation got a mouthful from Bridlington. Government leaders and T.U. leaders were as one—with Washington in session and a General Election in the offing. And all the most powerful Unions, even those in the article of pressing wage claims, subscribed to a policy of freezing wages, even without insistence on reductions in prices and profits as a condition. And among these powerful Unions was the N.U.R. The proof of the pudding of sincerity came to the table with startling suddenness, and at the time of writing the test of eating it is going on. Mr. Isaacs' Conciliation Board on Sept. 9 announced their unanimous decision to reject the claim of 650,000 railwaymen for an extra 10s. per week. Only recently these claimants rejected a smaller compromise offer and agreed to abide by the Conciliation Board's verdict. By that verdict they get nothing at all, having rejected the half-loaf. No more sensational and significant test could possibly have been presented on the very morrow of a fine decision by the Unions. But what will the men do? Can we suppose that the Unions, after a short visit to Bridlington, have regained their authority over their own members? Or must we expect another outburst of those unofficial strikes so recently outlawed? It is a pity that the test—with its tremendous implications—concerns the railwaymen, some of whose lower grades have a real justification for improved conditions of pay.

"L'État, c'est Nous"?—But, if the pledged word has any meaning, never for years has such force of public opinion been ranged against undisciplined strikes. The Union leaders, the Government, the Unions by their voting, and the nation, are solidly united in agreement with the policy of freezing wages unconditionally. Indeed, it is only the memory of some loose ends of talk at the Conference which left one a doubt of the sincerity of all the great Unions. Here and there a hint was thrown out that "there is no more cake for anybody for a year or two—except, of course, my small slice." The country awaits the issue of this test with anxiety. It may fairly feel that at last it has powerful allies in resolute Ministers and Unions newly-galvanised into leadership. Presumably if Ministers were still wobbling, the Conciliation Board might have been persuaded to delay its report for a day or two. It was not so. And "*l'État, c'est moi!*"—on paper—has at last a meaning which does not exclude the nation as a whole. It is a very, very important issue. On the result the very survival of Trade Unionism as we know it or knew it may depend. Not to speak of our own survival, as a nation still inspired by ordinary business morality and common sense.

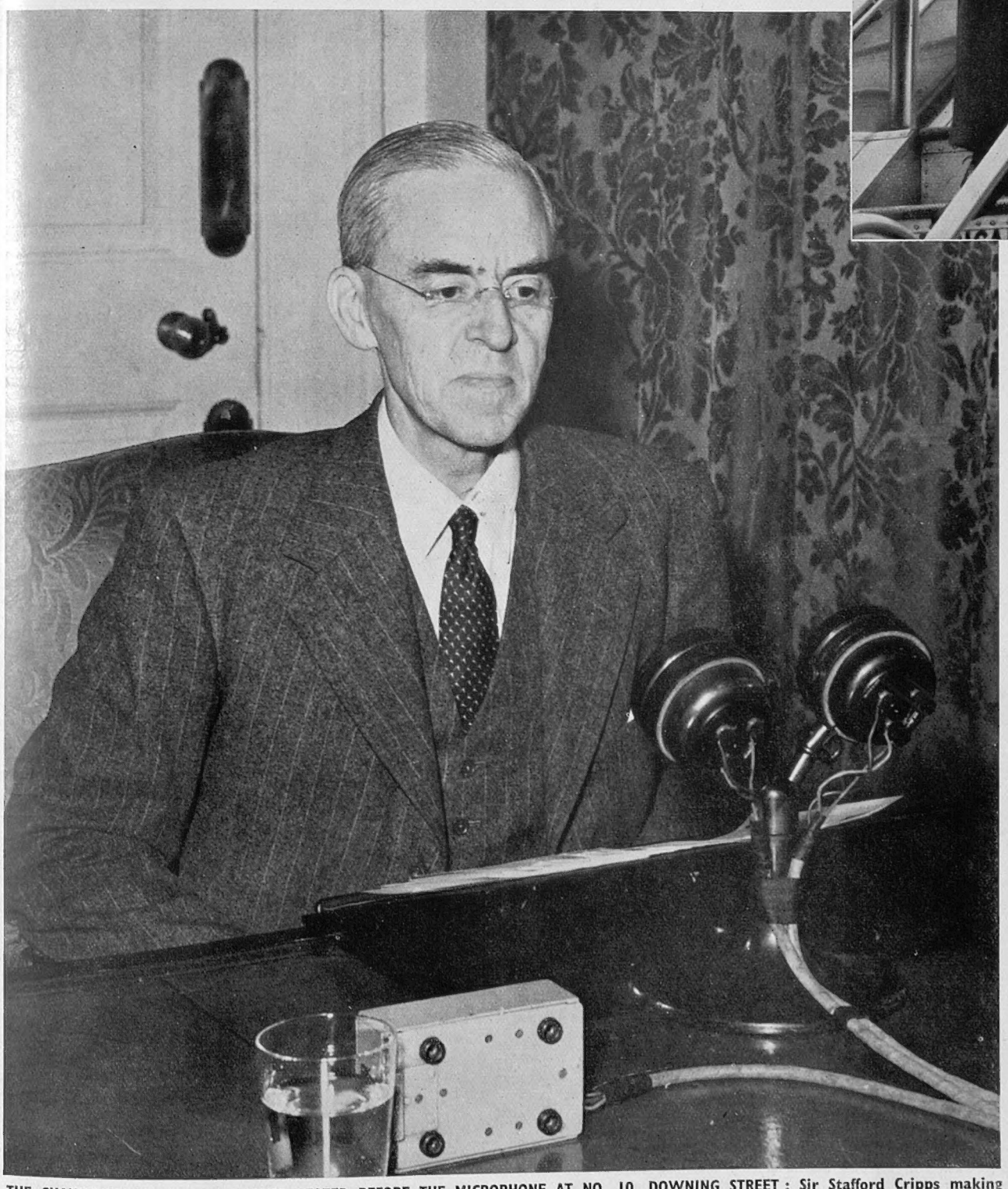
Loch Ness Monster.—A few hours after I passed the spot, the Loch Ness monster surfaced for the first time this season and was observed through glasses by two responsible men at 500 yards' range, not far from Foyers. It revealed three large humps on its back, each about 10 ft. at base; its neck is long and its skin is rough and wrinkled like an elephant's but rather lighter. I am disappointed to have missed the sight by so short a time. The sight and close observation of the monster converted one of those who saw it on September 5 from a total disbeliever into a convinced believer. Last year Lord Lovat and Lord and Lady Eldon had very much the same view, and were convinced of the monster's existence. And their evidence, I confess, convinced me. In the 16-mile stretch of Loch Ness which I covered I never saw on the water's face a single object, log, trunk or boat, which by any possibility could have been mistaken for a monstrous eel. The monster's appearance in visibility such as obtained that day is proof of its existence.

THE OLD STAGER



AT THE WORLD BANK AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND MEETING IN WASHINGTON : Mr. John Snyder, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Sir Ernest Rowe Dutton (of Great Britain) and Sir Stafford Cripps in conversation together at the meeting which was attended by the representatives of forty-eight countries. M. Camille Gutt, Executive Director of the Fund, has declared that Britain sought approval for her devaluation measure, and that this had readily been given by the Fund on the grounds of necessity

SIR STAFFORD'S RETURN : The Chancellor of the Exchequer stepping from his plane at London Airport last week-end, when he flew back to England to make his devaluation announcement



THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER SEATED BEFORE THE MICROPHONE AT NO. 10, DOWNING STREET : Sir Stafford Cripps making his dramatic announcement on devaluation. He described the drastic measure in the simplest terms possible, showing what immediate effect it would have on the British public. The 4½d. loaf would rise soon to 6d., he told his hearers

BRITAIN DEVALUES THE £

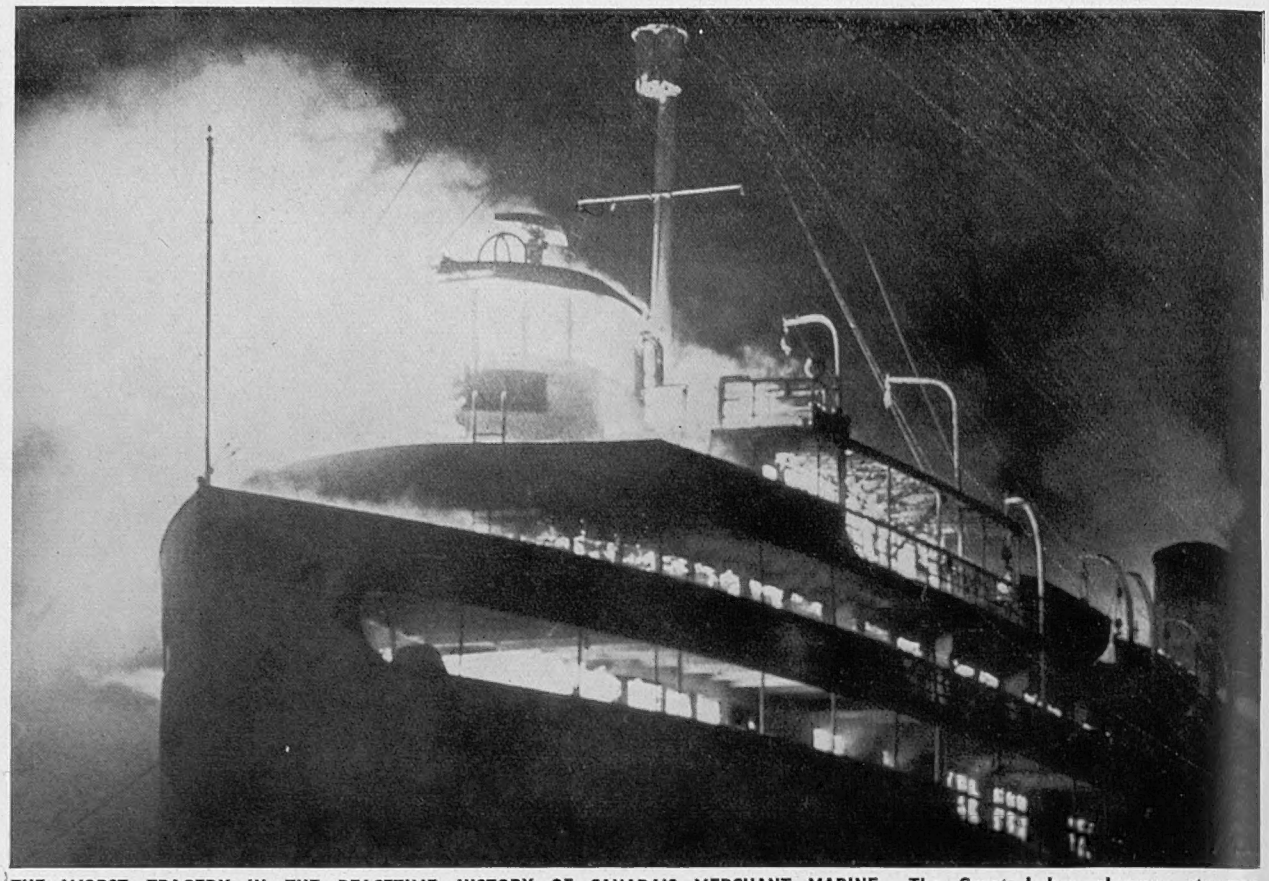
Sir Stafford Cripps Returns from Washington to Tell the British Public

Importers, exporters, bankers, economists and foreign exchange specialists have all been thrown into confusion by the unexpectedly drastic slash in the pound's value against the dollar. One effect at least was certain. The enormous pent-up sums owed to British firms which American business men had been holding up in anticipation of devaluation would start to flow eastwards across the Atlantic. It seemed that at last, if all the "ifs" and "buts" of the situation worked out according to plan, Britain had a chance of closing the dollar gap. Sir Stafford Cripps kept his secret well, and the cheery optimism he displayed to reporters on his homeward way from the United States disarmed the generality of the public. Sir Stafford was a model of studied calm when he came to the wireless last Sunday night, making his special announcement after the 9 o'clock news. World-wide comment on Monday morning expressed surprise at the extent of the cut, and in France veteran Socialist leader Leon Blum declared: "I had difficulty in believing the news at first." M. Queuille, the French Premier, only heard the news at the eleventh hour, and he hurried back from a holiday in his home town to consider the franc-sterling rate in relation to the dollar situation. Denmark was one of the countries to fall immediately into line; but there were hints that dairy produce might soon be costing the British consumer more.

THE "NORONIC" DISASTER

Many Die in the Burning of the Great Lakes Pleasure Steamer

Not since the *Morro Castle*, homeward bound from Havana, went aground at Asbury Park, New Jersey, with appalling loss of life in the '30's, has there been a peacetime tragedy in the Merchant Marine to equal that of the Great Lakes cruising ship *Noronic*, which was gutted at her berth in Toronto last week-end. It was believed that the fire started in a cupboard near the bar, and according to one eye-witness, Mr. Papp, a Detroit lawyer, "fire swept the ship in one big gush." Captain Taylor, Master of the *Noronic*, whose face and hands were scorched as he conducted rescue work, said that at a late hour, when he returned from a visit ashore, he saw no signs of fire. Passengers were eating sandwiches and taking coffee in the bar of the ballroom after a night of merry-making. A few minutes later, he said, the *Noronic* was ablaze from stem to stern. Apparently there was some panic, but the crew behaved well, and firemen from the shore effected many rescues. Last Monday it was officially stated that the death-roll was probably in excess of 200. A full roll could not be computed until the gutted ship had been examined from end to end, and divers had searched the dock for those who had jumped overboard.



THE WORST TRAGEDY IN THE PEACETIME HISTORY OF CANADA'S MERCHANT MARINE: The Great Lakes pleasure steamer "Noronic" (6,905 tons) blazing from stem to stern during the fire in Toronto Docks last week-end when over 200 people are believed to have lost their lives. The cause of the fire is obscure, but it may have started near the ballroom

THE GUTTED PLEASURE STEAMER ON THE MORNING AFTER THE DISASTER: An overhead view of the burnt-out decks of the Great Lakes pleasure steamer. Flames broke out at 2 a.m., and in less than fifteen minutes were sweeping the entire length of the decks. Many of the bodies recovered from the wreck were taken to a temporary mortuary arranged in Toronto's National Exhibition grounds

THE "NORONIC" TAKES A HEAVY LIST: Hoses being played on to the burning vessel, which was in dock at the time of the fire. It was not until the flames had taken a powerful hold that many of the passengers were aware of the danger

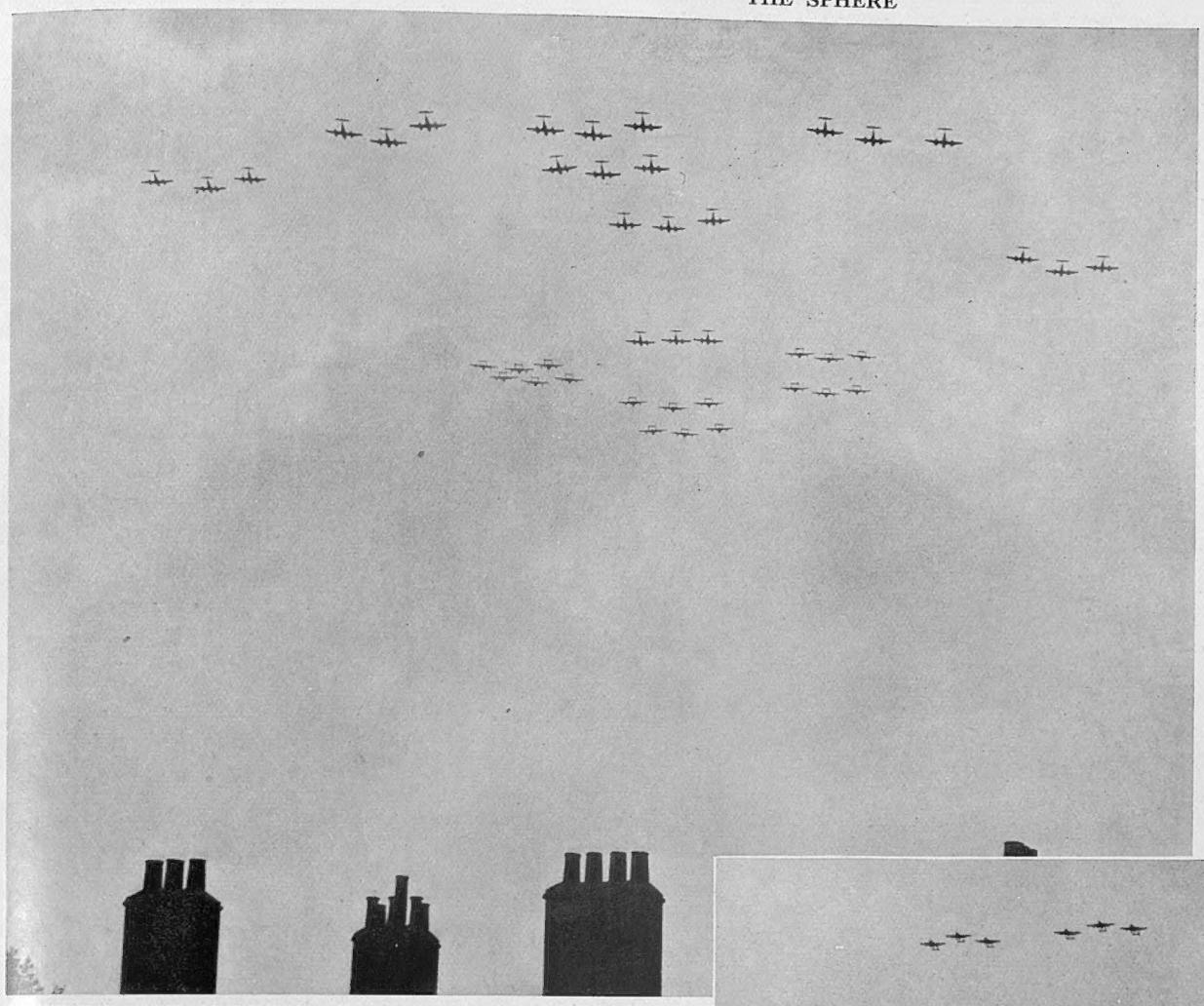
A WOMAN PASSENGER IS BROUGHT TO SAFETY: Wrapped in a fur coat she is being led by two swimmers to a fire ladder

A PASSENGER REACHES SAFETY WITH THE AID OF A FIRE LADDER: Helped by a fireman he made his way from the burning vessel. Many were trapped below decks as the flames took hold, and they had no chance of escape at all. Most of the victims were Americans who had boarded the "Noronic" for a late-summer cruise of the Great Lakes

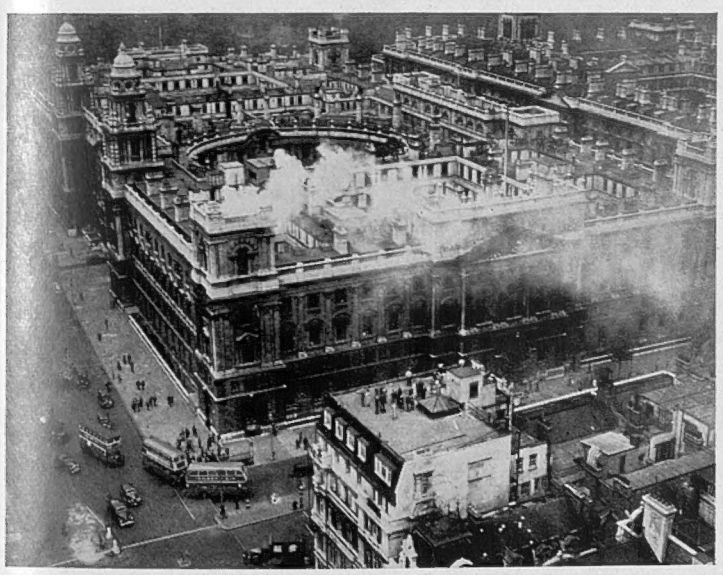
BATTLE OF BRITAIN DAY

London Sees the Great Fly-Past

The fly-past over London and Southern England to commemorate the Battle of Britain should have taken place at mid-day on September 15, but bad weather held up proceedings and the squadrons, preceded by a lone Hurricane, did not pass over London until the late afternoon. After the Hurricane came Lancasters and Lincolns, and then, in swift succession and impeccable formation, B 50's of the United States Air Force, Hastings Transports, groups of Mosquitoes, Spitfires of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, Sea Furies and Sea Hornets, Hornets and the jet-engined Meteors and Vampires. Lord Tedder, Chief of the Air Staff, and a distinguished gathering, including Lord Dowding and Lord Trenchard, watched the fly-past from the roof of the Air Ministry.

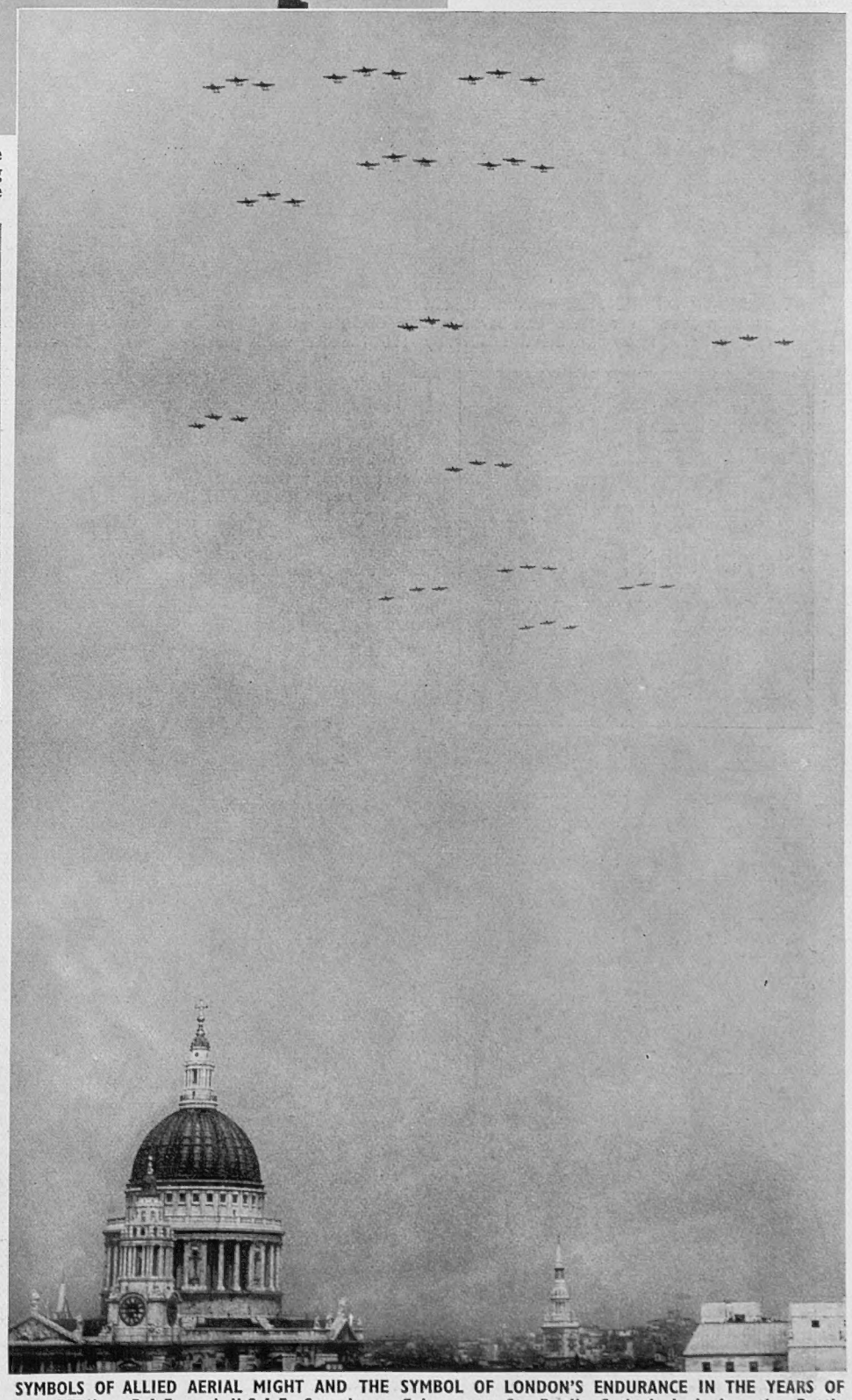


ABOVE THE ROOFS OF LONDON : Two-engined fighters passing over the capital during the fly-past on Battle of Britain Day, commemorating the ninth anniversary of the great victory over the Luftwaffe



A MARKER FLARE WAS LIT ON THE ROOF OF ONE OF THE MINISTRY BUILDINGS IN WHITEHALL : This helped to guide the squadrons in their flight across Central London. The pilots afterwards reported extremely bumpy conditions. Thousands of office-workers watched the fly-past from the roofs of offices in the City and the West End

A DISTINGUISHED GATHERING ON THE AIR MINISTRY ROOF : Among those who watched the fly-past from this point of vantage were Lord Tedder, who is seen near the foreground holding his young son, and Lord Trenchard (wearing black Homburg, on left), who led the Royal Flying Corps. On the right in the middle of the picture (in bowler hat) is Lord Dowding, who directed the Battle of Britain



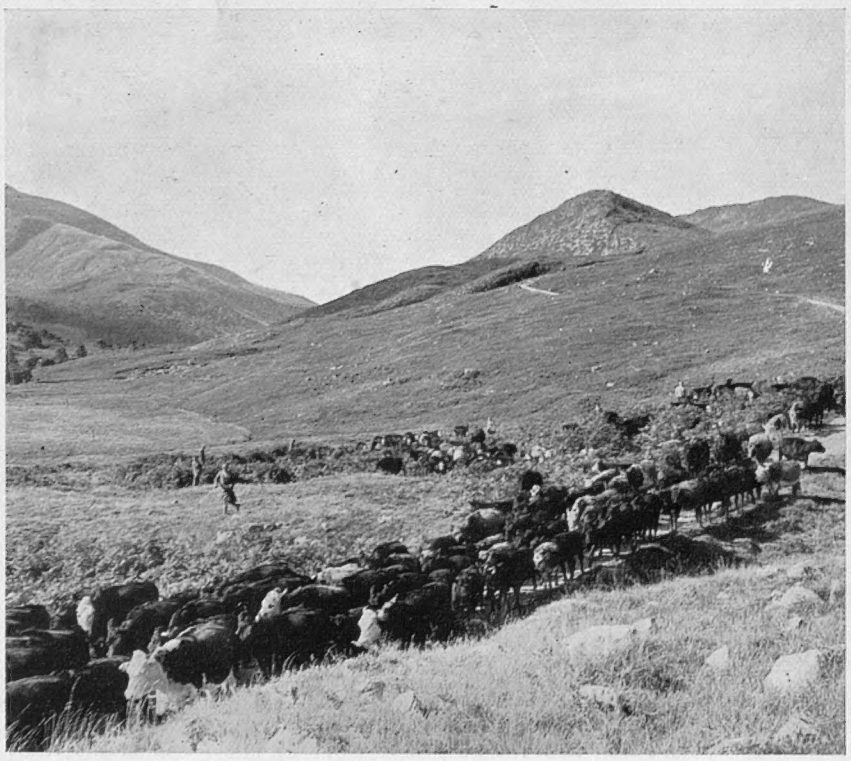
SYMBOLS OF ALLIED AERIAL MIGHT AND THE SYMBOL OF LONDON'S ENDURANCE IN THE YEARS OF PERIL : R.A.F. and U.S.A.F. Squadrons flying over St. Paul's Cathedral during the Battle of Britain fly-past. The Cathedral's emergence from the blitz, damaged within but superficially intact, gave hope to London's citizens at moments of the greatest stress

THE ROUND-UP ON THE STRATHFARRAR RANCH IN INVERNESS-SHIRE: Cattle being driven down a glen before being herded into a corral for dipping, as a precaution against tick-borne cattle disease. Lord Lovat began to develop his herd in 1946, after leaving the Army, and it is now one of the finest in Britain. Already 170 bullocks and yearlings have been sold this year, the herd retaining its hardiest stock

LORD LOVAT'S ROUND-UP

The Ex-Commando Leader Brings in His Cattle at Strathfarrar

The Scottish title of Lovat has been borne by the Fraser family since the fifteenth century, and from the days of Simon Lovat, the Jacobite, who in planning to seize by force his cousin, an heiress, captured instead her widowed mother, to the days of the seventeenth Baron, the present holder of the title, the story of the family has been one of enterprise and action. The sixteenth Baron, it may be remembered, raised Lovat's Scouts and commanded them in the South African War, while the son of "Simon the Jacobite" raised the Fraser Highlanders. The present Lord Lovat has become known since the war (in which he gained so many honours in the Commandos) as a stockbreeder on a lavish scale. Lord Lovat has certainly confounded all the prophets who said that his plans to raise cattle in a Highland deer forest were "romantic nonsense"



THE CATTLE WEND THEIR WAY ALONG THE GLEN: 650 cattle (representing 500,000 meat rations for one week) being brought down to the valley by Lord Lovat and his men. The ex-Commando leader takes an active part in the work

LORD LOVAT WITH STALKER DUNCAN FRASER: The former Commando leader, who owns about 190,000 acres, seen at the round-up. He was a Brigadier of Commandos during the war and carried out the successful attack on the right flank at Dieppe

IN THE ROMANTIC LANDSCAPE OF INVERNESS-SHIRE: Lord Lovat's herd on the way to the corral, where dipping operations took place. The herd is the largest single unit of its kind in the country, consisting of 800 head

HOW TO DEAL WITH YOUNG STOCK: Sorting out cattle during corralling operations on Lord Lovat's estate, about 25 miles from Inverness. Lord Lovat is seen in the picture on the left with arms outstretched helping to turn back unruly members of his herd. Lord Lovat, who was Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in 1945, started his herd in 1946 when he had forty cows. His numerous critics in agricultural circles now have to admit the measure of his success

KIPLIN HALL AS SEEN FROM ITS GRASS-GROWN MAIN DRIVE: Unless public interest moves to preserve it, Kiplin Hall, once the home of the second Lord Baltimore, who sailed with fellow-Catholics to found Maryland in the seventeenth century, may be demolished. Standing remotely seven miles from Northallerton, seldom visited by tourists, this great Tudor mansion was designed by Inigo Jones. Its associations with the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore were recognised when turf from its grounds was sent to America for the Baltimore tercentenary. A fortnight ago a wealthy American, Mr. A. S. A. Brady, of Baltimore, made the journey from London especially to see the mansion. He will report to the Baltimore Historical Society, of which he is a prominent member. The fate of Kiplin Hall is engaging the attention of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

KIPLIN HALL

AND THE FOUNDER OF MARYLAND

The Fate of an Historic Tudor Mansion

Kiplin Hall is associated with George Calvert, first Lord Baltimore, who planted the colony of Ferryland in Newfoundland and sought a charter for the lands east of the Potomac; also his son, Cecil, second Lord Baltimore, who founded the Maryland Colony which his father projected. The name Maryland was bestowed on the colony by Charles I in honour of his Queen, Henrietta Maria, and appropriately enough the chief city was given the name of Baltimore. From the outset it was intended that Baltimore should provide a haven for Roman Catholics, and the first emigrants with Lord Baltimore were all members of Catholic families

ON THE LAWNS OF KIPLIN HALL: Mr. A. S. A. Brady, of Baltimore, who has journeyed up to see the mansion, seen with Miss Talbot, who jointly owns the estate with her cousin, Mrs. Turnor. They can no longer afford its upkeep

THE DESERTED LODGE AT THE MAIN GATE OF KIPLIN HALL: Cattle now graze behind the gate, which has not been opened for more than forty years. The half-mile drive to the Hall's main entrance is overgrown with grass, but it is not hard to conjure up the splendours of the historic past

BUILDING THE NEW BELGRADE

AND THE GREAT ZAGREB HIGHWAY

Life in Marshal Tito's Federal Republic

THE MASTER BUILDER AND THE LEADER WHOM RUSSIA HAS VOWED TO DESTROY: Marshal Tito examining plans of the new city of Belgrade now building near old Belgrade at the junction of the Sava and the Danube. With him are a leading architect (left) and Mr. Kardelj (Foreign Minister, second from right)

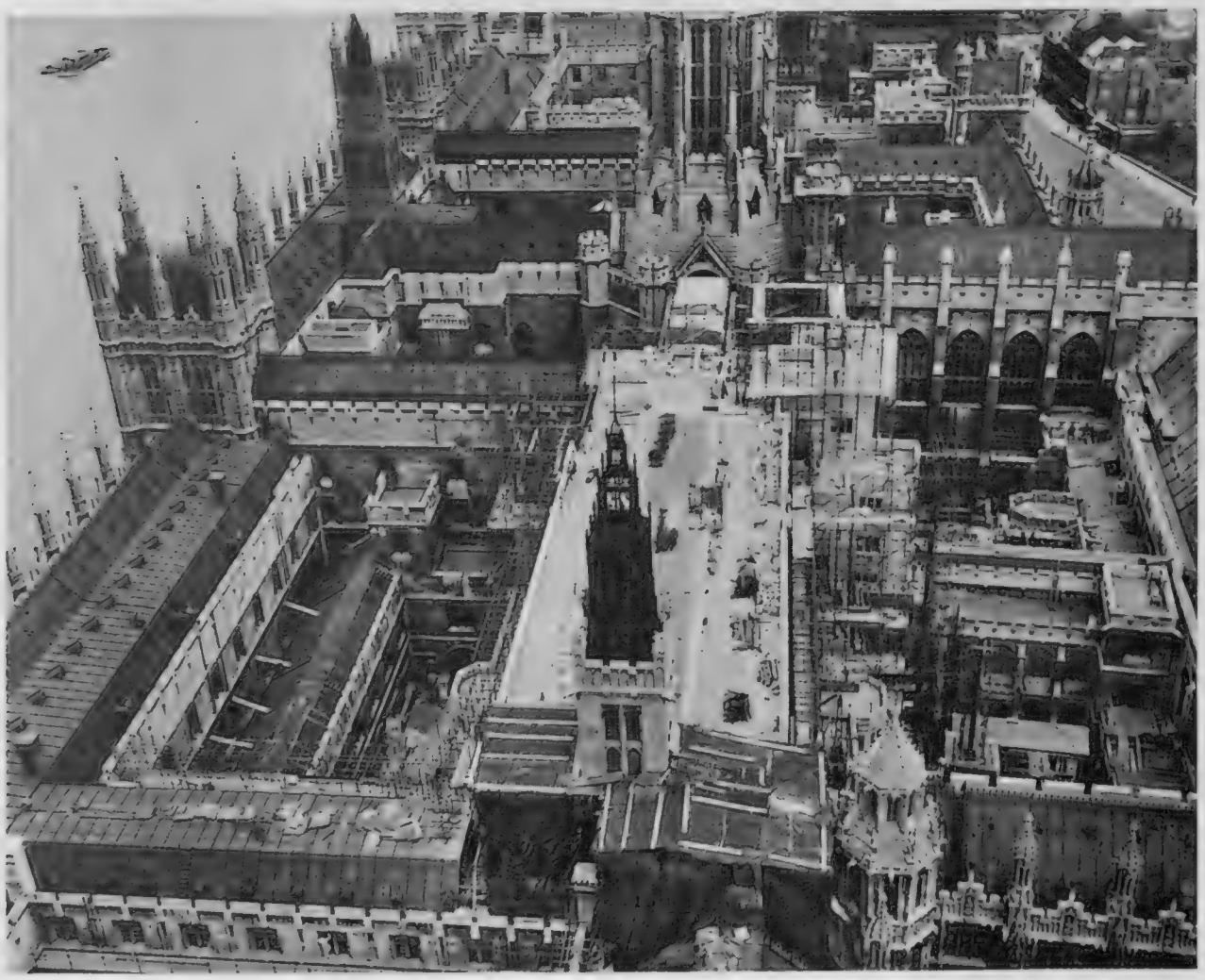
To live in Belgrade these days must be stimulating to say the least, and for Marshal Tito and his colleagues no doubt prolonged residence there would be highly dangerous, for the Russians have made it plain that they mean to defeat him. Throughout this summer the Marshal has spent a great deal of time on the Island of Brioni, swimming and enjoying a holiday existence with a large corps to protect him. Meanwhile work has gone ahead rapidly on the five-year plan to rebuild Belgrade. The University building and Parliament are already taking shape, and the new city is being laid out in the most lavish manner. Workers from the People's Front and the Youth Brigades are engaged on the task, and they have also been helping to build the new Belgrade-Zagreb road.

THE PROGRESS OF AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME IN THE YUGOSLAVIAN CAPITAL: The new University building in Belgrade with the scaffolding of the main block going into position. The University, together with a new Parliament building, shops, offices and restaurants will constitute the centre of the new city of Belgrade which Marshal Tito is now building at the junction of the Danube and the Sava, within sight of the old city, in accordance with his five-year plan

THE RALLY OF THE ROAD-BUILDERS: The Yugoslav Vice-President, Mr. Mosa Pijade, welcoming back to Belgrade Yugoslav citizens who had been working on the new Belgrade-Zagreb road. The welcome-back ceremony took place in Belgrade's Square of Brotherhood beneath a giant portrait of Marshal Tito

THE RETURN OF THE ROAD-BUILDERS: Volunteer workers filing into the Square of Brotherhood on arrival at Belgrade from their camps on the Belgrade-Zagreb road, where they have been engaged in construction work throughout the summer. The workers on the road received no pay, but were fed, lodged and clothed

AN OVERHEAD VIEW OF THE NEW COMMONS CHAMBER, NOW ROOFED IN AND CLOTHED WITH CLIPSHAM STONE FROM COURTYARD TO PARAPET: The Chamber's structural wo will be completed by April 1950 if the present rate of progress is maintained. After that the furnishing of the new House and other arrangements necessary t make it ready for use will occupy several months. It is very doubtful indeed if the whole task will be completed within the lifetime of the present Parliame



THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER

THE STRUCTURAL WORK ON THE CHAMBER AT LAST NEARS COMPLETION

Since many members of the House of Commons wil retiring at the end of this Parliament and othe may not return, members have been hoping that t might have an opportunity of sitting in the new Ho before the General Election. There has been talk o "token" sitting in the new Chamber—even thoug may not be fully completed—to gratify this wish, bu the time of writing no decision on the matter has be made. Unseen by the general public, for the exte of Parliament does not bear witness to the major disa which overcame the Commons during the blitz, the re Chamber is rapidly taking shape, and at latest by autumn of 1950 it is hoped that the "Members of best club in the world" will return to the traditional of their labours.

On left—**THE NEW COMMONS RISES BETW COMMONS COURT AND STAR CHAMBER COUR A mass of scaffolding still surrounds the ba ing and builders' materials litter the flat ro The Houses of Parliament were begun in 1 by Sir Charles Barry, who had the assista of Augustus Welby Pugin. Barry used maj sian limestone from Church Anston, in Yorksh as an external building material, but that stone s crumbled so badly, particularly on the Victo Tower, that Clipsham stone from Rutland is be employed on the facings of the new House. T is said to have much more hard-wearing qua**

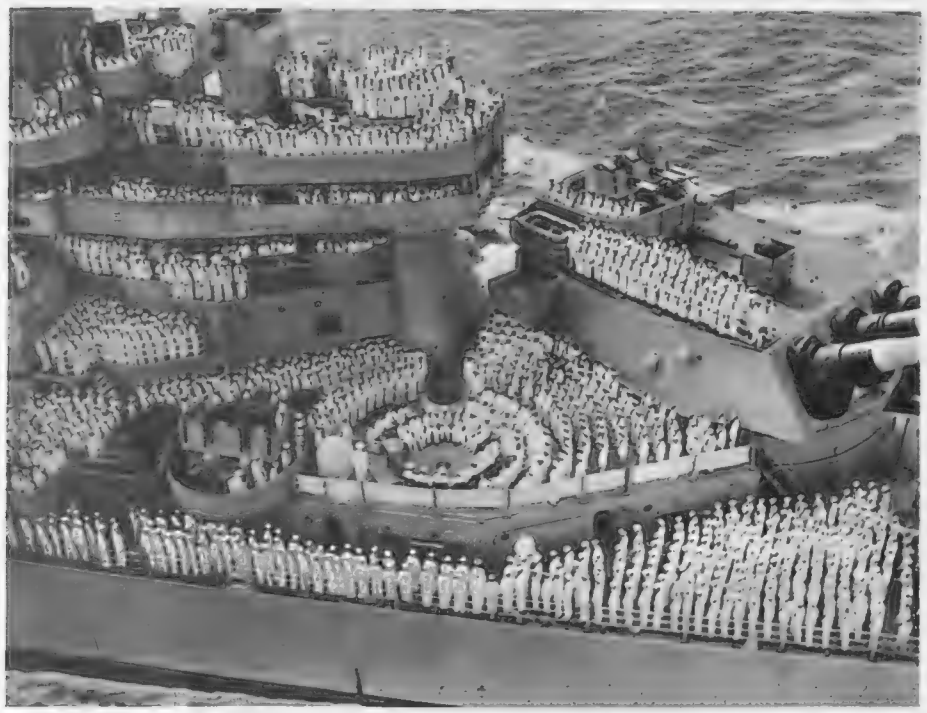
THE STATELY PILE OF THE NEW PALACE OF WESTMINSTER: The Houses of Parliament bear this alternative title because they stand on the site of the old Palace of Westminster, first named in the reign of Edward the Confessor and occupied by his successors down to Henry VIII, who transferred the Royal residence to Whitehall. The Houses of Parliament, however, are still nominally a Royal palace. The building is in a rich late-Gothic style. It contains 13 courts, 100 staircases and 500 apartments. The new Chamber will contain many improvements upon its blitzed predecessor, particularly as regards lighting, heating and ventilation arrangements

A Survey of the Foreign News in Pictures

A ROYAL WEDDING IN CENTRAL FRANCE: A BANDIT HUNT IN SICILY

A HABSBURG ARCHDUCHESS MARRIED IN FRANCE—THE WEDDING AT LIGNIERES OF ARCHDUCHESS ELIZABETH CHARLOTTE OF AUSTRIA, YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF THE LAST EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA, AND PRINCE HENRY OF LIECHTENSTEIN, COUSIN OF THE REIGNING PRINCE: *Left*—**The Royal bride and bridegroom walking back to the château seat of Prince Xavier of Bourbon-Parma, after the ceremony. In front of them went nine-year-old Prince Sixte of Bourbon-Parma.** *Right*—**The Royal couple signing the register at the Town Hall at Lignieres, Department of the Cher, when complying with the civil formalities**

Members of the Habsburg, Bourbon-Parma and Liechtenstein families gathered recently at the Château de Lignieres, Central France, for the marriage of Archduchess Elizabeth Charlotte, youngest daughter of the late Emperor Charles of Austria and the ex-Empress Zita. The ex-Empress was present at the ceremony, and she is seen in the picture on the left walking behind the bridesmaids. At the religious ceremony the congregation sang the hymn "Tantum ergo" to the music of Haydn composed for the Austrian Anthem. It is a coincidence that the hymn to this music is seldom omitted from weddings in the province of France. The bride, Archduchess Elizabeth, was born at El Pardo, Madrid. The bridegroom was born at Cra



OBSERVING THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF JAPAN'S SURRENDER TO THE ALLIES: Some of the 2,500 men of the U.S. warship "Missouri" massed on the main and superstructure decks. In the centre of the picture the men are grouped round the "Surrender Plaque," which marks the identical spot where the Allied leaders met to receive the Japanese surrender and to sign the terms. When this picture was taken the *Missouri* was cruising in West Indian waters about 200 miles off the coast of San Salvador, where Columbus landed after his voyage of discovery to the New World

A REQUIEM MASS FOR THE LATE MR. J. A. BEASLEY: The casket in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Sydney, during the service, which was attended by many prominent leaders in Australian life, including the Governor-General, Mr. McKell, who is seen kneeling on the right. Mr Beasley, who had been High Commissioner in London since 1946, died suddenly in hospital in Sydney. He was fifty-three years of age and one of the outstanding personalities in Australian political li

M. HENRI QUEUILLE SETS UP A POST-WAR ENDURANCE RECORD—FOUR STUDIES OF THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER, WHO, BY REMAINING IN OFFICE OVER A YEAR, HAS SURPRISED HIS COLLEAGUES, DISTRACTED HIS OPPONENTS, AND HELPED TO PLACE THE FRENCH ECONOMY ON A FIRMER BASE: To mark the anniversary, M. Queuille has published an official record of the progress of his country. The report points with pride to a lower food-price index and a higher index of industrial produc

M. Queuille, who was born in 1884, was a doctor of medicine, represented his native town of Ussel (Corrèze) as Deputy from 1914 to 1935, and subsequently as Senator, and was between 1920 and 1940 a member of nineteen Governments, including Minister of Agriculture in the Herriot, Poincaré, Chautemps, Paul-Boncour, Daladier, Sarraut and Doumergue Cabinets, and Minister of Food Supplies in the last Reynaud Cabinet in 19 He escaped from France to London in April 1943, later joi General de Gaulle's National Liberation Committee in Alg

THE KING OF SIAM AND HIS FUTURE QUEEN TOGETHER IN SWITZERLAND : King Phumibol Aduldet, who came to the throne in 1946 after the assassination of his brother King Ananda Mahidol, seen at the Grand Prix motor races at Lausanne with his bride-to-be, Miss Sirikit Kitiyakara, daughter of the Siamese Ambassador to the Court of St. James's. The King and his fiancée are at present both students at Lausanne. The King is twenty-one years old

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF WINDSOR ON A HOLIDAY VISIT TO ITALY : A waitress serving the Duke and Duchess with medicinal waters from the spa at Montecatini, near Florence. They had motored to Montecatini from Portofino on the Ligurian Riviera, where they made a short stay. It is understood that the Duke and Duchess intend to pay an extended visit to England during the autumn months

A THAMES WAR-TIME BRIDGE IS RE-ERECTED IN AFRICA—THE 420-FT. BRIDGE WHICH NOW SPANS THE KAFUE RIVER AND LINKS TWO PARTS OF THE GREAT NORTH ROAD THROUGH NORTHERN RHODESIA : During the war it linked the South Bank of the Thames near County Hall with the Victoria Embankment. Engineers have worked since September 1948 to re-erect it in Africa. On the left they are seen laying the carriageway

On September 8 Lady Beit declared open the new Kafue Bridge, which is seen in these pictures in the final stages of erection. It had previously been handed over to Northern Rhodesia by Sir Alfred Beit and accepted by Sir Gilbert Rennie, the Governor. The bridge replaces a pontoon bridge which has been in use since 1930, and which has sometimes been out of action because of floods. The bridge has been set up 9 ft. above the record flood-level, and it is on two piers constructed to offer the minimum amount of obstruction to the sudd brought down during the rains. Nearby is the Kafue railway bridge carrying the main line to the Copper Belt. In 1927 the railway bridge was raised 5 ft. above flood-level without interference with traffic.

THE HUNT GOES ON FOR THE BANDIT OF MONTELEPRE—ITALY BRINGS POLICE COMMANDOS INTO ACTION IN THE SEARCH FOR SALVATORE GIULIANO, WHO HAS OVER 100 MURDERS TO HIS NAME : *Left*—Members of the Carabinieri patrolling Montelepre, Sicily, where Giuliano had his home. On many occasions the bandit has returned to Montelepre in disguise. *Right*—Typical caves in the mountainside on the road to Montelepre. From such caves Giuliano has laid many an ambush

The 5,000 police, the troops and the Commandos who have been thrown into the battle against Salvatore Giuliano are not only up against a determined killer who knows every inch of the country, but one whom the Sicilian people regard with awe mingled with affection. Many of them would shield this Robin Hood without hesitation, for Giuliano makes lavish gifts to the poor, and sends money to the relatives of his victims. Not long ago, when one of Giuliano's sisters was married with typical Sicilian pageantry and carousal, plain-clothes police mingled with the wedding guests. They did not then know that Giuliano was there, too, in disguise. Giuliano's story began in 1943, when he took to the mountains after a brush with the police.

THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE NEW WEST GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC IS INAUGURATED: Dr. Theodor Heuss, of the Free Democratic Party, taking the oath of office at Bonn after he had been elected by 416 votes against 312 votes cast for Dr. Schumacher, the Socialist leader. Dr. Heuss is sixty-five years of age. He was born at Brackenheim, Wurtemburg, and has been school-teacher, publisher, biographer, economist and politician. He was elected to the Reichstag by the German Democratic Party in 1924, and he was one of the last five Democrats in the Reichstag in 1933 when Hitler came to power. One of his many biographies dealt with Friedrich Naumann, founder of the National Social Movement, of which Dr. Heuss was originally a member. Another of Dr. Heuss's books, *Hitler's Way*, was publicly burned by the Nazis in 1933. It is understood that Dr. Schumacher stood against Dr. Heuss because "he cannot forgive him for having voted in favour of giving Hitler full powers in 1933." From 1933 onwards Dr. Heuss was constantly in conflict with the Gestapo, and they deprived him of office and employment. He re-entered political life after the capitulation

NEWS FROM BERLIN AND THE WEST GERMAN REPUBLIC

The Inauguration of Dr. Theodor Heuss

"HITLER AS A STRATEGIST" IS NOW A BEST-SELLER IN GERMANY: A kiosk saleswoman showing a customer Halder's book "Hitler als Feldherr," which is said to be selling in large numbers in Germany. Publications dealing with the private lives of Hitler and Mussolini are also selling in large numbers, notably "Hitler's Little Girl" and "Mussolini as a Lover." At the moment there are a large number of new publications in Germany, and many of the former violently pro-Nazi publications are also starting up again

CELEBRATING SALERNO DAY IN BERLIN—MEN OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT TAKING PART IN THE TROOPING THE COLOUR CEREMONY IN BERLIN TO MARK THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THIRD OF THE ALLIED LANDINGS IN ITALY DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR: The trooping took place on the Olympisher Platz in the British Sector of Berlin. Except for the absence of the scarlet and bearskins of the Guards, the ceremony was a counterpart of the trooping on the King's Birthday in London. The Queen's Royal Regiment carries that most ancient of battle honours, Tangier 1662-1680. No fewer than six battalions of the Queen's fought at Salerno

A NEW CHURCH RISES IN THE AMERICAN SECTOR OF BERLIN: The Berlin community of the Free Evangelical Church, with the aid of funds supplied by friends in the United States, is building the Friedenskirche (Church of Peace) and the dedication ceremony will take place in the course of next month. The building, the first massive church structure to be raised in Berlin since the war, will have accommodation for 400 persons

BERLIN HOLDS ITS FIRST POST-WAR MOTOR SHOW: *Above and at top*—Eighty firms from the Western Zones of Germany and from the Western Sectors of Berlin have been exhibiting at this open-air show, the first to be held since the war. The show was opened by Herr Ernst Reuter, Lord Mayor of Berlin. The Volkswagen, seen in the top picture, is now being mass-produced, and has attracted admiring attention. It has a maximum speed of 62 m.p.h. The engine is housed at the rear

"THE DANCE OF THE LITTLE SWORDS" AGAIN TAKES PLACE IN ÜBERLINGEN: An overhead view of the scene in the ancient and picturesque town of Baden, on the shores of Lake Constance, as visitors from Austria, Switzerland and other parts of Southern Germany thronged the market square to watch the traditional dance which is performed every ten years. The dance dates from the year 1634, when the Swedes attempted to capture Überlingen. The town, once a free town of the Empire, has records going back to the year 770 A.D., but it is believed that it was inhabited in the Stone Age

THE INAUGURATION OF THE ÜBERLINGEN FESTIVAL: Another overhead view from the Cathedral tower during the celebration of the "Dance of the Little Swords." Überlingen is still a great show-place. Remains of the ancient fortifications have been found and it has many buildings of the fifteenth century. Owing to the war it is fifteen years since the last "Dance of the Little Swords" took place

THE KING GEORGE VI RESERVOIR AT STANWELL, NEAR STAINES, AS IT APPEARED LAST WEEK WHEN AN APPEAL TO CONSERVE WATER WAS ISSUED TO LONDONERS: The reservoir, opened after the war by His Majesty the King, has a total capacity of 4,466,000,000 gallons and now only 231,000,000 gallons remain. The normal water-level should be just below the arches of the bridge of the water-tower seen in the distance. The steady downpour last week improved matters, but only very slightly

TEDDINGTON WEIR WHERE THE DAILY FLOW HAS FALLEN TO A MINIMUM OF 170,000,000 GALLONS: When the figure reaches this minimum the reservoirs may not draw any further supplies from the river

LONDON'S MEAGRE WATER SUPPLY

The Effect of Long-Continued Drought at Staines and Teddington

On right—LOW WATER AT TEDDINGTON: Earth and débris showing above the river-bed near the weir, where the flow has been reduced to one-third of normal. On the right of the picture work is seen in progress on the new weir at Teddington

LATE ON A SUMMER EVENING THE LIGHT BURNS FROM MADAME PETAIN'S ROOM: The wife of the aged Phillipe Petain lives in the Hotel des Voyageurs on the Island of Yeu, off the west coast of France, and nearly every day she pays a visit to her husband, bringing him small luxuries and the news

MADAME PETAIN SHARES THE EX-MARSHAL'S EXILE

Her Life on the Island of Yeu

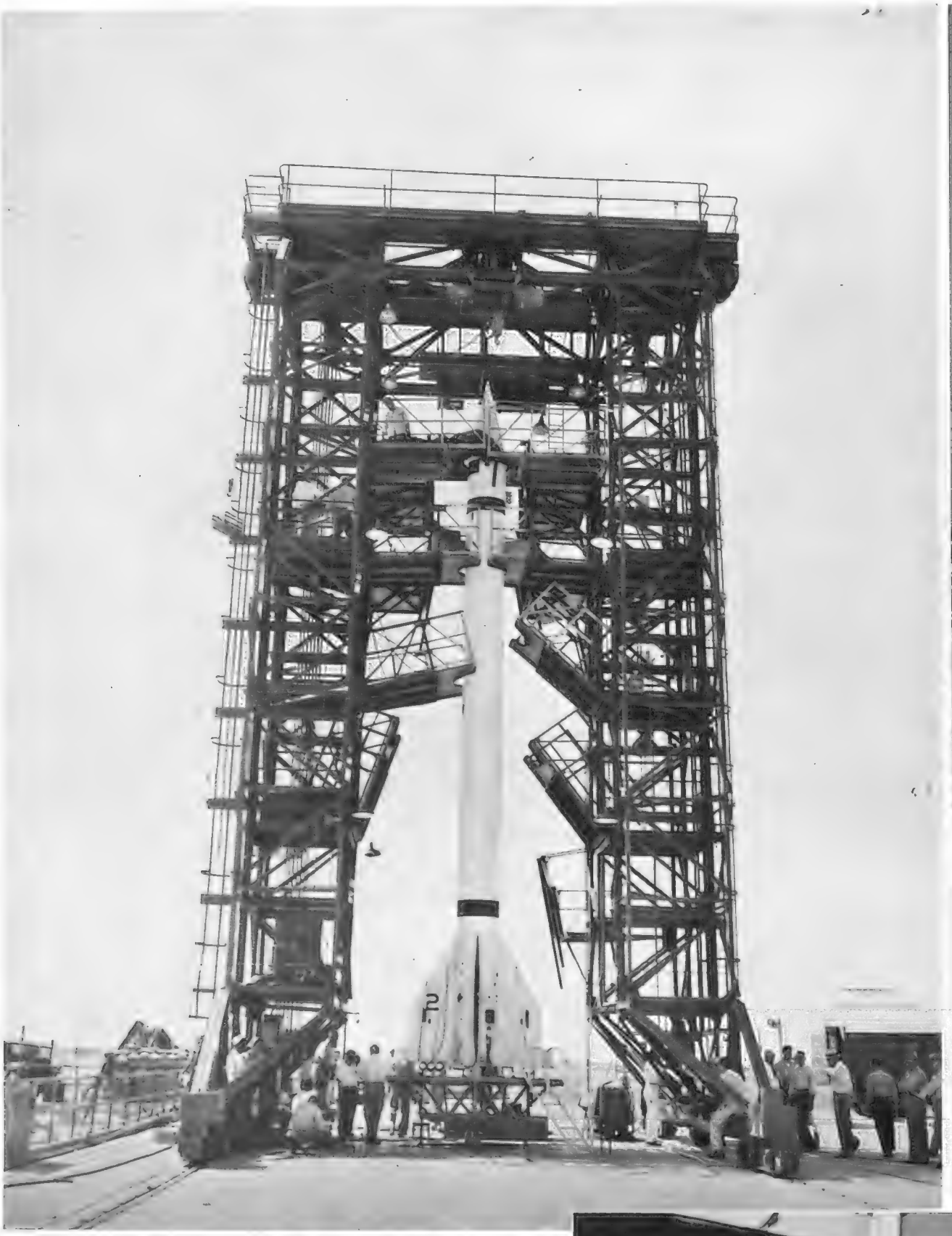
At the end of 1945 Henri Phillipe Petain, ex-Marshal of France, was reprieved from the firing squad by General de Gaulle and, after temporary incarceration in the Pyrenees, was dispatched to the fortress on the Island of Yeu, the smallest of the three islands forming the Pertuis Breton and situated near La Rochelle, off the western coast of France. To this tiny wind- and wave-swept island came of her own accord Madame Petain, the middle-aged wife of the nonagenarian ex-Marshal, and there she has faithfully remained at his side, seeing him almost daily and ministering unremittingly to his needs. One day, she feels, they may yet return to Paris to live out their days in the flat on the Boulevard Bourdonnais.

Madame Petain's home on the prison island is at the Hotel des Voyageurs, where the Nolleau's look after her with true Western French hospitality. In the spring of 1948 it seemed that the aged ex-Marshal's release was at hand. President Auriol, however, decided otherwise.

MADAME PETAIN KEEPS ABREAST OF THE NEWS: The wife of the ex-Marshal reading newspapers at her hotel on the Island of Yeu. Petain is allowed both newspapers and wireless, but his wife searches for articles in the Press which may prove to be of special interest to her husband

A GIFT FOR MADAME PETAIN: Friends on Yeu have presented this car to the wife of the ex-Marshal, and, when it is repaired, she will be able to use it for her daily journey

MADAME PETAIN SETS OUT FOR THE FORTRESS: In a hired car she leaves her hotel to make one of her daily visits to her husband. On the left is Madame Fernande Nolleau, wife of the patron of the Hotel. The Nolleau family have done everything possible to make Madame Petain's stay comfortable



VIKING II ALMOST READY TO TAKE THE AIR: The second of the ten Viking rockets, built under the United States Navy's long-range research programme, seen with the loading-rack round it before being launched from the White Sands proving ground at Las Cruces, New Mexico. The drawbridge-type loading-rack makes it possible to work on any part of the rocket while it is still in a vertical position. The rocket was launched after the loading-rack had been withdrawn on its rails

THE VIKING II DISAPPEARS INTO THE BLUE: E pictures on the left the rocket is see rocket is seen gathering pace, and

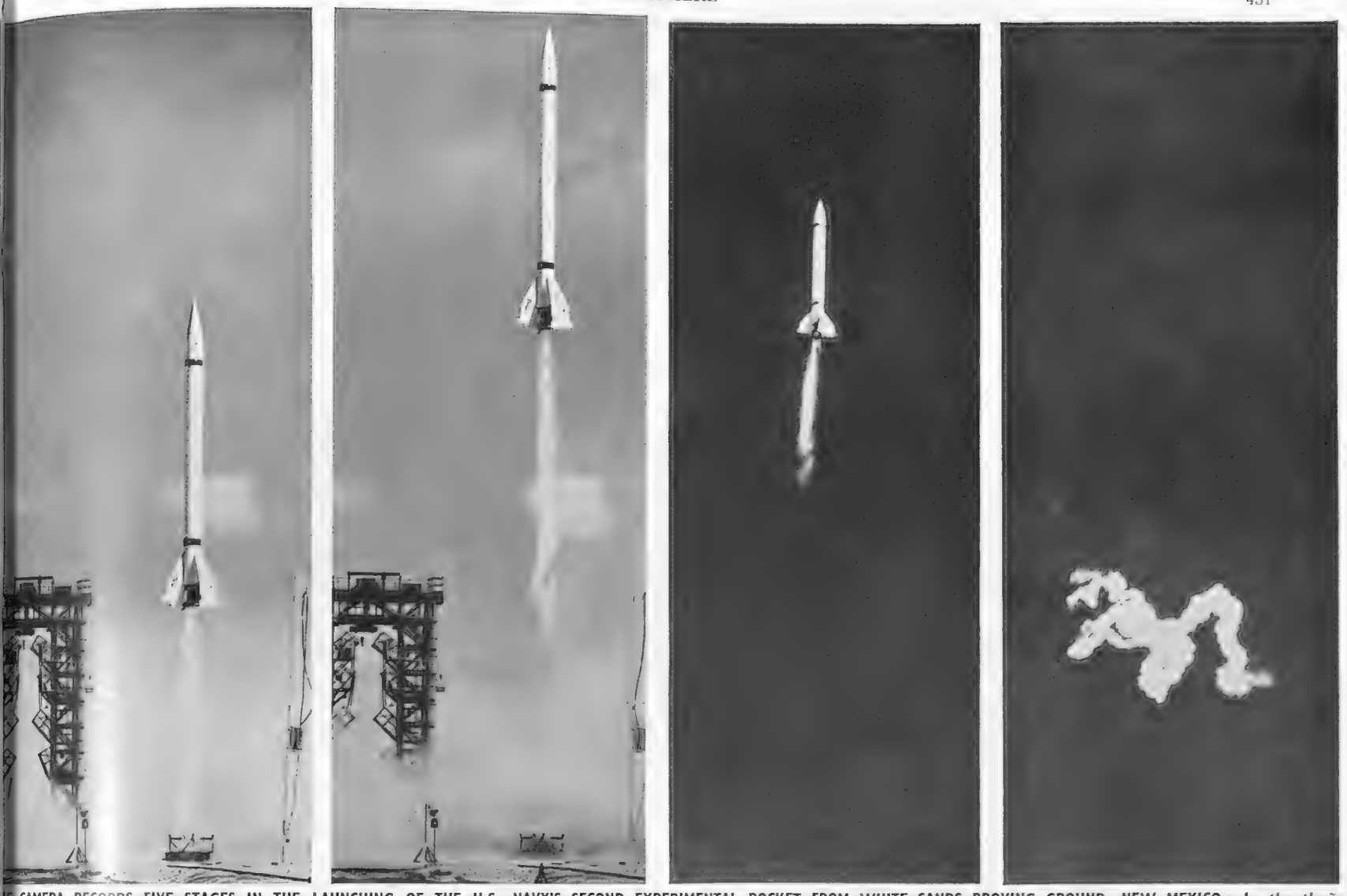
AMERICA'S VIKING II DISAPPOINTS THE EXPERTS

The Second of a Series of Ten Experimental Rockets Based on the German V2

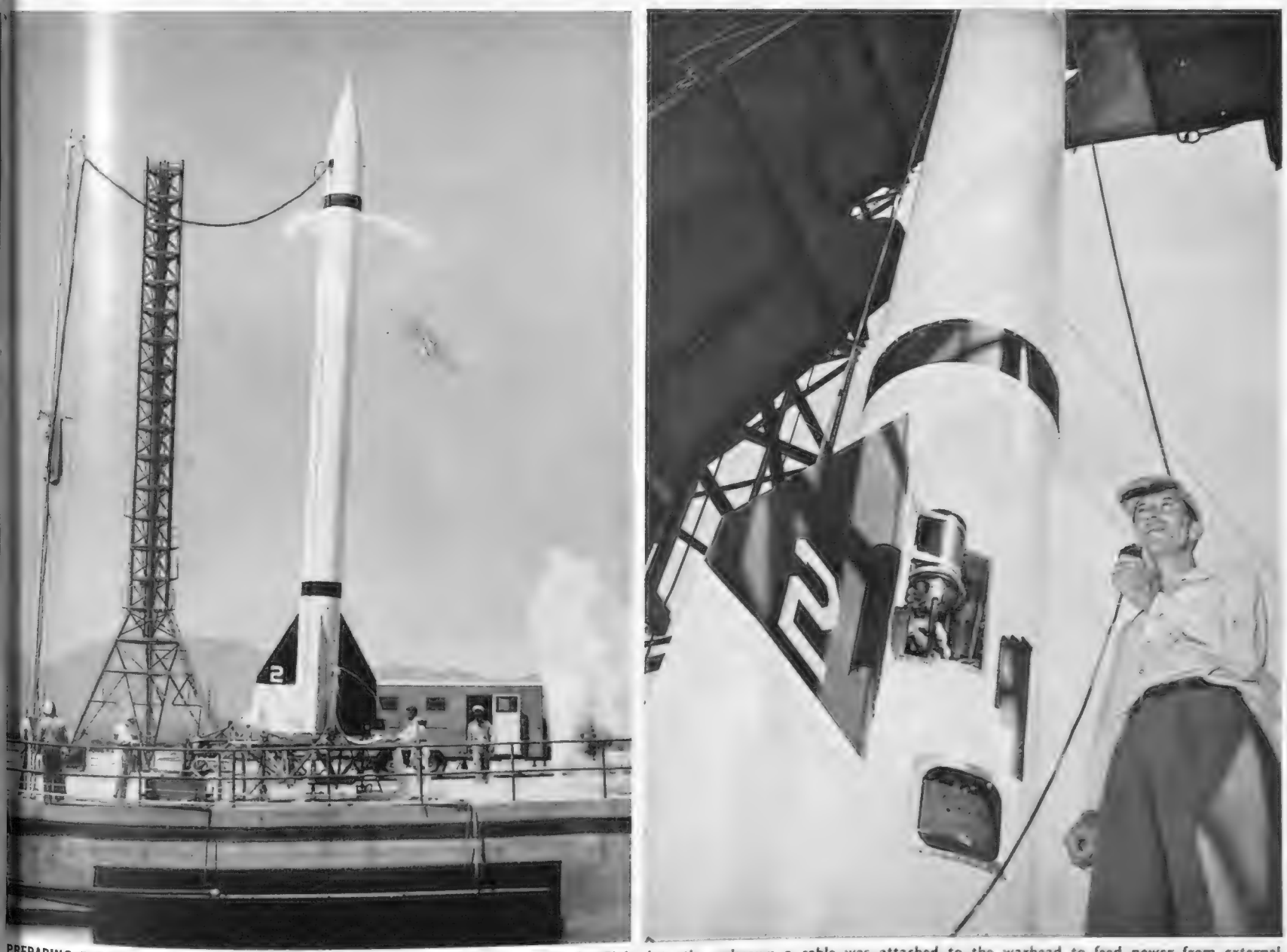
THE MAN WHO FIRED THE VIKING II FROM THE PROVING GROUND AT WHITE SANDS: Youngquist at the control panel waiting for the time signal before pulling over the sw that sent the projectile roaring skyward. Less than three minutes after the switch h been pulled the rocket had attained its peak, reaching a height of only 33 m

Both the United States Air Force and the United States Navy are experimenting with rockets at the White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico, and among the important aircraft companies building these projectiles are Consolidated Vultee, whose adaptation of the V 2 has been illustrated in THE SPHERE; and the Glenn L. Martin Co., of Baltimore, Maryland. The latter are building ten Viking rockets under the Navy's long-range research programme which aims at the development of a high-altitude rocket that will in every way exceed the V 2 in performance. The development programme provides that the experience gained from each Viking shall be used to advance the design of the next and of all succeeding rockets in the Viking series. The first flight, illustrated in our issue of June 11, 1949, was a test of the Viking's propulsion and control systems, both of which performed well. The 51½-mile altitude, though sufficient to prove the basic design, did not utilise the rocket's full capacity. The second flight is shown on these pages, and it was thought that the Viking would reach an altitude of at least 100 miles, but the missile petered out after ascending only 33 miles, the fuel ceasing to burn after only 49 seconds of flight. While naturally disappointed at the performance, the scientists and officers associated with the Naval Research Laboratory are undaunted, and in a determined "back to the drawing-board" manner are now analysing what has gone wrong. They plan the third launching next February. Superficially similar to the V 2, the Viking is designed ultimately to reach an altitude around 200 miles.

Previous rocket work has centred around captured German V 2's, one of which reached the record single-rocket altitude of 114 miles at White Sands on December 17, 1946; the smaller Corporal, another Army Ordnance project, which has gone to 34 miles, and the smaller Navy Aerobee, which has reached 78 miles. A "Wac Corporal" rocket carried "piggy-back" on a V 2 on February 24 reached an all-time record altitude of 250 miles. Some rocket scientists say such multi-stage rockets offer the most promising line of development as far as distance is concerned. The Viking is 46 ft. 5 ins. long, like the V 2, but only 32 ins. in diameter, and weighs less than half as much—9,800 lb. gross against 28,400—being made of aluminium instead of steel.



E CAMERA RECORDS FIVE STAGES IN THE LAUNCHING OF THE U.S. NAVY'S SECOND EXPERIMENTAL ROCKET FROM WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND, NEW MEXICO: In the three it slowly begins the ascent. The drawbridge-type loading-rack, it will be seen, has been withdrawn to allow the projectile unimpeded ascent. In the fourth picture the right it has disappeared, leaving behind a vapour trail of curious design. At 33 miles Viking II inexplicably "fizzled out." It reached a speed of 1,775 m.p.h.



PREPARING FOR THE FIRING: *Left*—While mechanics made Viking II ready for its flight into the unknown a cable was attached to the warhead to feed power from external forces to the rocket, thus saving the rocket's batteries for the actual flight. Wisps of steam seen in the picture indicate oxygen "bleeding" during fuelling. *Right*—Mr. M. W. Rosen, who is directing the flights of the experimental Viking models, seen beside Viking II as he directed final preparations for the take-off

DUDU OF SUMERIA

The Rediscovery of His Statue by Iraq Authorities

REVEALING BRITAIN

Archæologists Continue Their Researches Into the Past

THE HEAD OF DUDU, A COURT MAGICIAN, SCRIBE AND HIGH PRIEST OF ANCIENT SUMERIA: This is a profile of the 4,500-year-old statue which has been recovered by Iraq authorities from illegal dealers in antiquities, who were trying to sell it for a high price. It was first found in 1943 by peasants who were engaged in digging a draining-ditch, but later disappeared. Telloch, the ancient Sumerian city of Dudu's abode, was situated in what is now Southern Iraq. It is said that Dudu lived about 2700 B.C.

THE DISCOVERY OF A ROMAN WELL IN CHICHESTER: Dr. A. E. Wilson, an eminent archæologist, looking down the well at Pallart House in the Sussex town. This is the presumed industrial site of a villa community. Other Roman relics including pottery and coins have also been found on the site. The discovery of the well, one of the latest finds of Roman Britain, was made by archæologists who have been digging throughout the summer months. They have been helped by students who have spent parts of their vacation in this work

THE COUNTY OF DEVON REVEALS AN IRON AGE CAMP: A further discovery of Ancient Britain has been made by an excavation party at Dainton Common, near Ipplepen. Working under the direction of their leader, Mr. Willis, they have unearthed part of a camp of the Iron Age. In this picture Mr. Willis, extreme right, is seen with two of his assistants, examining the find

DESCRIBED AS PRICELESS AND THE FINEST PIECE OF SUMERIAN ART YET FOUND: This was the statement of Dr. Naji al Asil, Iraq Director-General of Antiquities, after seeing the statue of Dudu. The statue, about 20 ins. in height, was carved from hard lavastone

ON THE TRACK OF FIRE-RAISERS IN THE CITY OF LONDON—DIGGING IN MARK LANE: *Left*—Labourers carefully removing earth as they approach what may prove to be a "find." *Right*—The trenches after a week's work

In their search for old London, the archæologists of the Roman and Medieval London Excavation Council, have now turned their attention to the Mark Lane area, off Eastcheap. After digging for just over seven days seven men brought to light traces of an early Roman community, including evidence which may relate to one of the two great fires from which London suffered in those days. The first of these was lit by Boadicea's troops, who, in A.D. 60, razed the town to the ground. About the second, in A.D. 130, little is known; it may have been accidental—like the Great Fire in 1666—or deliberately started by an enemy. The archæologists have found evidence of charred and burnt clay at a depth of 4 or 5 ft. Fragments of Roman pottery were found within a few days; but these are not so important as the discovery of indications of an even earlier settlement on the site of Mark Lane—post-holes which suggest huts made of wood.

MR. CHURCHILL VISITS COLONIST II IN HIS BOX: The British wartime Premier with his first racehorse, which scored a decisive win in the Lime Tree Stakes at Windsor races

MR. CHURCHILL IN THE PADDOCK AT WINDSOR: The Conservative leader watching his French-bred three-year-old parading before the horse won the Lime Tree Stakes by eight lengths from Miss Dorothy Paget's Straight Verse. This was Colonist's second win in two outings. Mr. Churchill obviously enjoyed every minute of his new rôle as a patron of the Turf. The success of Colonist II was loudly cheered by a large crowd, and after the race Mr. Churchill made his way to the unsaddling enclosure. "Thank you very much. I congratulate you," he said to the jockey, T. Hawcroft, and then for the first time in his life he entered the jockeys' room and saw the successful rider weigh in. Colonist's win in the Lime Tree Stakes brought in £359. The three-year-old's first appearance was at Salisbury, when another large crowd cheered the horse home

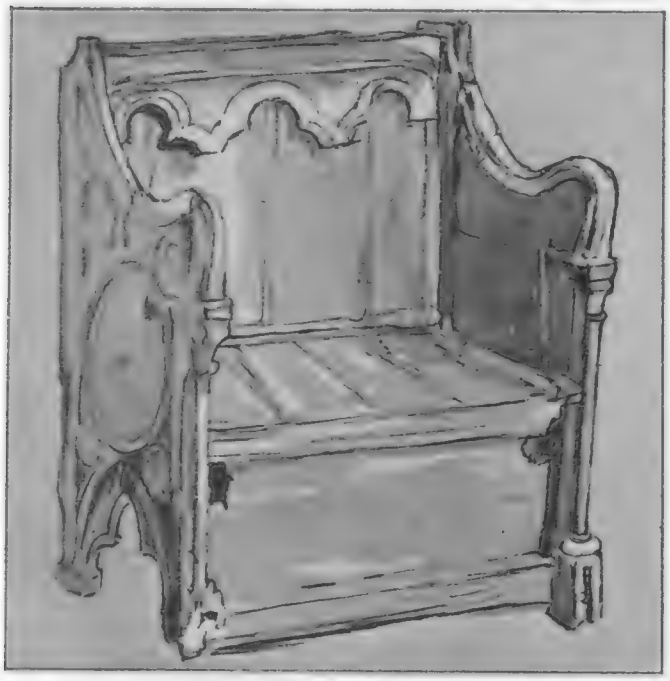
WINSTON CHURCHILL

RACEHORSE OWNER

He Goes to Windsor to See Colonist II Win His Second Race

A PAT ON THE NOSE FOR COLONIST II AND A CHAT WITH JOCKEY HAWCROFT: *Left*—Mr. Churchill with his three-year-old in the box. *Right*—Also in the group in the paddock with Mr. Churchill and his jockey are Mrs. Churchill and Captain and Mrs. Soames. Mr. Churchill has now bought two brood mares. It has been rumoured that, like the great Lord Rosebery, he seeks to achieve the Classic double of winning the Derby and holding the Premiership

WHERE THE DUNMOW FLITCH WILL BE PRESENTED ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1949—THE STAR INN AT DUNMOW, ESSEX, SCENE OF THE PRESENTATION OF A FLITCH OF BACON, PART OF A PRIZE PIG SENT FROM NEW ZEALAND UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH GIFT SCHEME: The Star Inn is a very ancient hostelry, and, although it has suffered from Victorian restoration, it still has many picturesque features. The presentation ceremony to the couple selected for the prize will take place on a stage in front of the inn. To qualify, entrants must be able to claim they have lived in amity for a year and a day without even wishing the marriage knot less firmly tied



THE TWELFTH-CENTURY CHAIR NOW IN THE CHANCEL OF LITTLE DUNMOW CHURCH: It was formerly used to chair the winners of the Dunmow flitch through the village

THE DUNMOW FLITCH AGAIN

THE CELEBRATED AWARD TO BE REVIVED IN ESSEX

Drawings from Little Dunmow and Dunmow Specially Made by W. P. Robins

The news that the ancient ceremony of the Dunmow Flitch is to be revived on October 1 is welcome indeed, but if the noble Lady Juga, who may have been the originator of this "Court of Love" in the year 1111, had been told by one gifted with a sight of the far future that the 1949 flitch would be provided by the generosity of the New Zealanders because England was subjected to bacon rationing, she would beyond question have been hopelessly mystified.

Quite how this presentation ceremony first began is uncertain, but if doubt surrounds the legend that Lady Juga founded it in the twelfth century, there is more certainty in the knowledge that Robert de Fitzwalter, a great man of Dunmow in the thirteenth century, revived it in his own day. In de Fitzwalter's time it was given out that "any person from any part of England going to Dunmow in Essex, and humbly kneeling on two stones at the church door, may claim a gammon of bacon if he can swear that for twelve months and a day he has never had a household brawl or wished himself unmarried."

In the years that followed the flitch certainly gained nation-wide fame, for in the fourteenth century the author of the celebrated satirical poem of "Piers Ploughman," who lived on the borders of Wales, mentioned the custom in a manner that implied a general knowledge of it among his readers, and somewhat less than half-a-century later Chaucer put mention of it into the mouth of his immortal "Wife of Bath." In the reign of Henry VI the presentation of the flitch was still a national concern, despite the limited publicity methods of the day. A poet then wrote:

"I can fynd no man now that will enquerre
The parfyte wais unto Dunmow,
For they repent hem within a yere
And many within a weke, and sooner . . ."

It was about the date of this poem (*c.* 1445) that the first recorded delivery of the flitch took place, the recipient being Richard Wright, a yeoman of Bradbourghe, Norfolk. In 1467, in the reign of Edward IV, a flitch went to Stephen Samuel, an Essex husbandman, and so the record goes on until 1772, when the prize fell to John and Susan Gilder of Tarling, Essex.

Allusions to the custom are fairly frequent in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century literature, but it appears to have died out after 1751, when Thomas Shakeshaft, a weaver, and his wife claimed the flitch and afterwards realised a large sum of money by selling slices of it to some of the 5,000 people who attended the presentation ceremony after the court. In 1855 Harrison Ainsworth, the historical novelist, interested himself in reviving the ceremony, and in newspapers of that date there are lively accounts of the junketings that took place. The 1855 ceremony did not take place at Little Dunmow, but at neighbouring Great Dunmow, where this year's ceremony will also be held. At one time the ceremony took place at Ilford. *(Cont. above on right)*

IN THE CHURCH OF LITTLE DUNMOW, TWO TOMBS OF THE FITZWALTER FAMILY WHO ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN THE DUNMOW AWARD IN THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY: *Left*—The Fitzwalter tomb, a magnificent alabaster monument, and (*right*) the Matilda tomb. The latter commemorates Matilda, daughter of Robert Fitzwalter. She was poisoned by King John after refusing that monarch's unwelcome attentions. The story of Matilda's virtue is told in the "Dunmow Chronicle"

ADORNING THE SOUTH WALL OF LITTLE DUNMOW'S ANCIENT CHURCH: The carving of a young boar which doubtless has a connection with the ceremony of the presentation of the flitch

The pictures on these pages, which have been specially drawn for THE SPHERE by Mr. W. P. Robins, A.R.W.S., R.E., at Little Dunmow and Great Dunmow, show where the ceremony has taken place in past years and also the Star Inn, where the presentation will be made next week, that is, if in this modern age a couple can be found who in the words of the ancient doggerel "never made any nuptial transgression"

THESE COTTAGES ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN A GUEST-HOUSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE LITTLE DUNMOW PRIORY: Although occupied, they are in a ruinous condition, but it can still be seen that they represent very fine examples of cottage architecture

THE OLD TOWN HALL AT DUNMOW: It was here in July 1855 that Harrison Ainsworth, the historical novelist, acting as judge, revived the ceremony of the Dunmow Flitch. Apparently the revival was a great success. There were two sets of claimants on that occasion, with witnesses, counsels for the claimants, and counsels in opposition. The ceremony was opened by the crier, and concluded with an address to the 7,000 people who gathered in the open to see the presentation of the flitches

HOME NEWS IN PICTURES

HORSEMAN'S SUNDAY AT TATTENHAM CORNER: Between 300 and 400 horses and ponies took part in the ceremony, which was organised by the Surrey County Horse Association. *On right*—The Rev. A. L. Bird, Vicar of Burgh Heath, who conducted the service, made his address with the aid of a microphone, draped with a saddle. The ceremony included the blessing of the horses. The large attendance included thirteen-months-old Cherry Spalding, who rode on a special basket saddle on her pony

A HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN THE RUINS OF A CHURCH: Fifty years ago farmer Wesley Key, of Southwood, Norfolk, refused to pay tithes unless the church held a thanksgiving service each year on his land. The local rector agreed; a service was held annually, and Farmer Key then paid his tithes regularly. This year, Farmer Nigel Key, Wesley's grandson, attended the fiftieth service of thanksgiving at Southwood. It was an open-air service in the churchyard near the ruins of the 400-year-old Southwood Church. The church stands in the centre of Farmer Key's 600 acres. The Rev. Hubert Bevan, Rector of Southwood and Limpenhoe, gave thanks for a plentiful harvest in his address

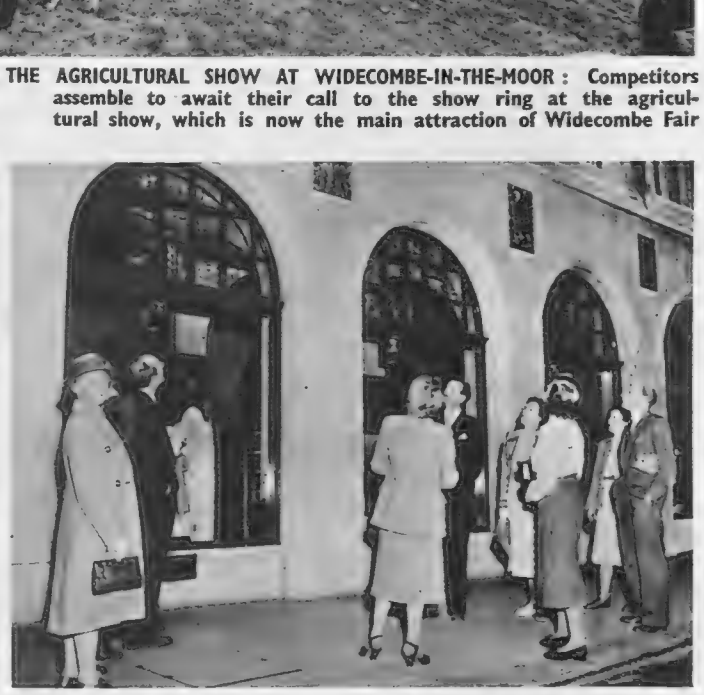
WINE-TASTING UNDER THE ARCHES OF LONDON BRIDGE: Eighty-years-old M. Albert Bichot tries a Burgundy of the Hospices de Beaune at the tasting in the cellars of J. L. P. Lebègue and Company under London Bridge Station. In the centre is M. Albert Bichot Fils, and, on the left, Mr. Guy Prince, managing director of Lebègues. Over 700 people attended the tasting, which was the first on such a scale to be held in the cellars of a London wine shippers. The tasting was held on three days, the third being set aside for young men, nominated by wine merchants. Over 100 wines were available for tasting, including 1947 Clarets and Burgundies: 1947 is one of the two best vintage years since the war, and is spoken of as a great year for certain wines

SIX HORSES IN A PHOTO-FINISH: The remarkable end of the Prince of Wales's Nursery Handicap at Doncaster. The horses from top to bottom are Sinbad, Castle Rock, Shawondasee, High Forest, Hairtrim and Capricious. K. Gethin on Shawondasee thought he had won but was found to have dead-heated with T. Lowrey on Hairtrim. High Forest was third; Capricious, fourth; Castle Rock, fifth; and Sinbad, sixth, and only half-a-length behind the placed horses. The race, which followed the St. Leger, was the first in the history of photo-finish decisions in which the judge required photographic evidence to separate six horses which had passed the post in two closely-packed bunches. After the race, the announcement was made "Photo-finish between Nos. 5, 10, 12, 15, 19 and 20." The photograph shows clearly the narrow margin between all six horses and demonstrates conclusively that it would have been practically impossible to have arrived at a correct result without the aid of the camera

AT WIDECOMBE FAIR : The fair consists now of a few stalls and a small fun fair, but it is still held on the second Tuesday in September, and is attended by many holidaymakers. Widecombe-in-the-Moor, on the slopes of Pippin Tor, on the eastern border of Dartmoor, is renowned for its fair, which was immortalised in the famous old Devon ballad; and for the unique occurrence at the fine old perpendicular church of St. Pancras —known as the cathedral of the Moor—when, on October 21, 1638, the building was struck by lightning during a service and four people were killed

THE AGRICULTURAL SHOW AT WIDECOMBE-IN-THE-MOOR : Competitors assemble to await their call to the show ring at the agricultural show, which is now the main attraction of Widecombe Fair

PRINCESS ELIZABETH DANCES AT THE ABOYNE BALL : Her partner was Mr. David Bogle, a member of Mrs. Vaughan-Lee's house party. Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh attended the ball in the Victory Hall, Aboyne, as guests of Mrs. Vaughan-Lee, with whom they had previously dined at Kincardine House. Their Royal Highnesses stayed until the end and took part enthusiastically in most of the reels and traditional Scottish dances



LISTENING TO LONDON'S ONLY OUTDOOR CARILLON : A familiar sight outside the shop of Atkinsons, the Bond Street perfumiers who celebrate their 150th anniversary this year. The carillon was installed in 1927 by Gillett and Johnston. It was played for three-quarters of an hour while a farewell dinner to Atkinsons' chairman, Mr. Ambrose Addis, was being given in a nearby restaurant. Mr. Addis has left to take up an appointment in Canada and is succeeded by Mr. Lewis MacIver

DEMONSTRATING A NEW BRITISH-BUILT BABY TRACTOR : The inventor, fifty-four-year-old Richard Bradford, of Hornsey, shows his Nu-Track tractor to agricultural experts from America and Israel, and to representatives of the Governments of Pakistan and Burma. The demonstration was given at Chimhams Farm, near Farningham, in Kent. The Bradford Nu-Track tractor has many new features and is driven by an engine of 880 cc. It is to go into production next month and will be made by the Laine Engineering Company of Tottenham. It will, it is hoped, become a dollar earner

AN "OZONER" IN KENT : Hop-pickers watch a free cinema show given by the Methodist Mobile Cinema and Sunday School in a field near Paddock Wood. The travelling cinema was built by Mr. C. J. Harris for the Methodist Church. The projector is electrically driven, power being supplied by a generator driven by a Ford V-8 engine

A NEW VILLAGE RISES ON A BOMBED SITE IN HACKNEY IN LONDON'S EAST END : Semi-detached houses and flats on the Somerford Estate, the first part of which has just been completed. The estate, designed by Frederick Gibberd for the Hackney Borough Council, is a rare example of mixed development, providing flats, terrace houses with gardens, and bungalows, so that families of different sizes and with different preferences can all be accommodated in the same scheme. The portion now built is just over 5½ acres and the density is 104 persons to the acre

HACKNEY'S MODEL HOUSING ESTATE

Bungalows, Terrace Houses, and Flats Provide a Rare Example of Mixed Development

By the middle of the year Britain had been provided with 943,000 new homes, a formidable and impressive total. Some of the new schemes have been most imaginative, notably the Somerford Estate in Hackney, the first part of which has just been completed. It is a rare example of mixed development on a scale of high density. There are five types of dwelling: two or three-bedroom flats in three-storey blocks with staircase access, smaller flats with balcony access, pairs of two-bedroom houses in two-storey blocks with their own gardens, terraces of three-bedroom houses, also with their own gardens, and bungalows for old people. These different types, built in various shades of brickwork, are grouped together round a series of inter-connected squares, and their changing heights have given the architect the opportunity to introduce an unusual amount of variety and interest into his designs. He has paid careful attention to paving, planting and other details, with the result that the scheme provides encouraging proof that even dense housing need not be inhuman.

In the centre of the scheme there is a small hall and a communal laundry with washing and drying machinery. A nursery school, a public house and a branch library are to be added later.

THE OLD AND THE NEW ON THE SOMERFORD ESTATE : On the left is a modern three-storey block of flats with spacious balconies, and on the right are the now old-fashioned houses of a type extensively built in the years between the wars. The Hackney scheme offers a wealth of architectural variety

CONTRASTING ARCHITECTURAL STYLES FROM THE SOMERFORD ESTATE, HACKNEY : *Left*—A group of terrace houses with communal gardens and (*right*) bungalows for old people and three-storey flats side by side. The architect has paid careful attention to paving and planting, and in numerous instances fine old trees have been preserved in the scheme, adding vastly to the charm of the surroundings. Certain communal buildings, including a hall, are among the estate's amenities

"SUMMER DAY'S DREAM"

J. B. Priestley's Comedy of Ideas and Atmosphere at the St. Martin's Theatre

J. B. Priestley's latest play tells of an England which, after an atomic war, has lost all industry and so-called modern amenities. The few who were left have gathered in small communities, and the action of the play takes place in a crumbling country house on the South Downs in the summer of 1975. Into a happy household of grandfather, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and farm bailiff come three unwelcome visitors from the progressive nations of India, America and Russia. They have flown over to examine the potentialities of the chalk on the downs and have decided that they will set up a vast plant and a town to house the workers. To their surprise the prospect is not welcomed by the "natives," who want only to be left in peace. How the scientist, the industrialist and the Government official are won over and induced to suppress their report is told with wit and, at times, with poetry.

A SCENE IN THE FIRST ACT OF J. B. PRIESTLEY'S NEW COMEDY "SUMMER DAY'S DREAM," AT THE ST. MARTIN'S THEATRE: The youth of England in 1975 (on left, Adrienne Corri and John Westbrook) rehearse "A Midsummer Night's Dream" before the visitors from Russia and America (centre, Adina Mandlova and John Salew) and their grandfather (right, Herbert Lomas)

ATTENTION FOR THE RESEARCH CHEMIST: Dr. Bahru (Olaf Pooley) has hurt his foot in the helicopter accident which brings the representatives of India, America and Russia to the Dawlishes' house. Kneeling is Eileen Thorndike as Margaret Dawlish, and, on the right, is Charles Lamb as the farm bailiff

A PROBLEM FOR THE AMERICAN INDUSTRIALIST: Old Stephen Dawlish asks Franklyn Heimer what is his philosophy. "Well," says the business man, "it's a 100-per-cent. American. And nothing highbrow about it"

"AND STICK MUSK RED ROSES IN THY SLEEK SMOOTH HAIR": Rosalie Dawlish rehearses the 100-per-cent. American business man in the part of Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

THE SOVIET ICEBERG MELTS: Irina Shestova, the humourless Russian official, cannot withstand the combined attractions of music, an English summer night and young Christopher Dawlish

THE LINK WITH THE "CIVILISED" WORLD: Dr. Bahru has at last repaired the T.V. Com, or two-way television-radio, when he is interrupted by Irina, who at last has doubts about the value of bringing civilisation back to England by means of developing the chalk resources on the South Downs

THE ROYAL WARRANT HOLDERS AWAIT 1950

Their Position Reviewed After Ten Years

By CHARLES GRAVES

AN interesting blend of hope and anxiety is agitating the breasts of the world's most select body of tradesmen, shopkeepers and craftsmen—the Royal Warrant Holders.

The hope concerns Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, who have now been married very nearly two years, although they have only recently installed themselves in Clarence House. It seems reasonable to suppose that it will not be long before the Princess will be a grantor of Royal Warrants, and thus confer a coveted privilege upon the tradesmen who have served her in the past and who will supply her new household in the future. For only a Royal Warrant gives a trader or a shopkeeper the right to use the words "By Appointment to," and reproduce the arms of his Royal customer with his particular trade underneath. Three years of faultless service are the minimum qualification for a Royal Warrant. Moreover, a current Royal Warrant has a maximum life of ten years before it is renewable.

Which brings us to the question of anxiety.

The present King ascended the throne in 1937, and therefore few Royal Warrants were issued to tradesmen before January 1, 1940. This in turn means that there are only three months before the ten years are up and each Royal Warrant holder's case will have been reviewed individually. Already one or two firms have fallen by the wayside and have had to remove the Royal coat of arms from their shopfronts. Others may follow suit, not for any misdemeanour, but simply because the establishment is not being patronised to an appreciable extent by Royalty. Thus if orders dwindle to a few boxes of cigarettes in the case of a tobacconist, the Warrant would lapse automatically.

These Warrants are issued in the name of one member of any given firm and are strictly personal to him, and become void on the death of the Sovereign; on the death or retirement of the grantee; if the firm goes bankrupt, is liquidated or wound up; if the business is sold or amalgamated or materially changes its character. This means that nobody can "buy" a Royal Warrant by acquiring a firm to which it has been granted in the past. As I have said, the Warrant can also be cancelled if no real supply or service has been rendered during the previous three years.

At present there are 1,030 Royal Warrants in force, the holders ranging from principals of big firms to owners of one-man or even one-woman businesses. Thus the nephew of the late Mary Anne Bennett of Burgess Hill is official broom-maker to the King, as her ancestors have been since George III, and Mr. Sid Lovett is official window-cleaner, while in Windsor there is a chimney-sweep still entitled to display the Royal Arms on his barrow because of his Warrant of Appointment to King George V. Official clock-winders, saddle- and harness-makers, hatters, opticians, photographers, florists and brewers are among the hundreds of holders of the Royal Warrant, which are divided into sixteen different categories. The oldest of these holders is the single tradesman permitted to style himself "By Appointment to the late Queen Victoria." He is Mr. David Boyd of James Green and Nephew, Ltd., China and Glass Merchants of Queen Victoria Street. He received his Royal Warrant in 1895, which must make him a very old gentleman. Next in age is the member of the firm of vacuum cleaners who are still permitted to style themselves "By Appointment to the late King Edward VII," and ten firms who still have an active member personally granted the Royal Warrant by the late Queen Alexandra. Naturally, it is the Warrant of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary which has the greatest value to-day, followed by those granted by the Duke of Windsor when he was Prince of Wales. The latter's list include a Canadian photographer, a Nairobi outfitter, a Shanghai silversmith, an Indian silk manufacturer, a London firm of Presscutting agents, and a Calgary hatter.

Royal Warrant holders who reside overseas are few and far between, with the exception of the descendants of famous old French champagne growers and cognac distillers. The nearest approach to an American holder of a Royal Warrant is the American associate of Frank Partridge, the fine-art dealer. The only Australian Royal Warrant holders are Hardy Brothers, silversmiths and goldsmiths of Sydney, New South Wales. There are no South African Royal Warrant holders. In Canada there is Massey-Harris, manufacturers of agricultural implements. There are still one or two Warrant holders in India and Pakistan dating back to the days of King George V and Queen Mary. Wynand Fockink, the Dutch distiller, is the only Royal Warrant holder in Holland, and Peter Heering, the Danish distiller, is the only holder of a King George VI Warrant in Denmark.

The value to the fortunate recipient of the Royal Warrant is literally incalculable, but it is safe to say that, in the United States and Canada particularly, the permission to exhibit the Royal Warrant has very properly a powerful effect on the buying public. It is only reasonable that a firm which has satisfied the Royal Family for the previous three years must produce goods of the highest possible quality. The conferment of the Royal Warrant also has an electric effect on the craftsmen employed by the firm thus honoured. This is particularly noticeable on occasions such as the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and other events of public rejoicing. The craftsmen feel, naturally enough, that they are taking a personal share in the proceedings.

Needless to say, the Royal Arms are very carefully copyrighted under the Trade Marks Act and the Royal Warrant Holders' Association—in conjunction with even more formidable bodies like the Board of Trade, the Home Office and, in the United States, the Federal Trade Commission—see to it that there is no infringement of the privilege, either directly or indirectly. On various occasions unwise firms have done their best to pretend that they hold the Royal Warrant by putting on their notepaper some ancient coat of arms with a couple of supporters on either side, in the hopes that the buying public would think that they had Royal patronage. Some have even had the temerity to put up the Royal coat of arms, just like that. They were dealt with.

Looking down the list of the *London Gazette* it is fascinating to see the names of the official stamp dealers, horse photographers, reed thatchers, athletic outfitters, piano-tuners, hosiers, seedsmen, perfumers and purveyors of kippers, playing-cards, ice-cream, turtle soup, and soap to the Monarch. In the last list on January 1 there were nineteen Royal Warrants granted, several of them in connection with agriculture, though some were renewals. As has already been explained, Royal Warrants are granted to individuals. If they die or retire the Warrant lapses until the Royal Household makes another grant to their successors.

It may seem surprising that no official distinction is made between Warrants for personal service and personal goods supplied to the King, and personal service or goods supplied to one of the departments of the Royal Household like the Royal Mews. On reflection, however, it is quite clear that the King is not his own head chauffeur or head coachman, but he indirectly approves of their livery, as also the stable mats, weapons and gloves, worn or carried by the Royal servants. Similarly, though it must appear to be smarter to be Norman Hartnell and dress the Queen, or be Madame Marcyle and be her corsetière, or be Emile and be her hairdresser, the people who make her Christmas puddings, or her umbrellas or do her laundry, also supply a very personal service.

Originally styled "The Association of Her Majesty's Tradesmen" in 1840, the Royal Warrant Holders' Association was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1907 to guard the rights and uphold the high standard of suppliers to the Royal Family and the Royal Household. It prevents the assumption or use by any person of the Royal Arms or any device or emblem which is not authorised.

To conclude: of all Royal Warrant holders only one is entitled to the use of the word "Crown" in their designation. This is Garrards, who are by immemorial right permitted the description of Goldsmiths and Crown Jewellers.

AN UNUSUAL VISITOR TO THE POOL OF LONDON: As part of the Battle of Britain Week celebrations, an R.A.F. Sunderland flying-boat landed on the Thames near Greenwich Reach and taxied up-river under Tower Bridge to take up a position opposite Traitors Gate, near the H.M.R.A.F.V. "Bridlington." The Minister of Defence, Mr. Alexander, visited the two craft on the following day

"THE SPHERE" CHRISTMAS NUMBER

THE SPHERE CHRISTMAS NUMBER—the first since the war—will be published on November 17. It contains a number of fine reproductions in colour, the work of old masters and of leading present-day painters and illustrators. Special sections are devoted to flower paintings and to a selection of pictures from the new National Gallery of Sports and Pastimes at Hutchinson House. In the centre of the magazine is a reproduction of one of Pieter Bruegel's most celebrated pictures—"The Netherlands Proverbs." Stories and articles are contributed by Stella Gibbons and John Gore. Two stories by celebrated Victorian writers have been revived—*The Holly Tree*, by Charles Dickens, and *Angels' Music*, by Mrs. Henry Wood; and there is an illustrated section of the delightful amateur theatrical episode in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*.

Copies of THE SPHERE CHRISTMAS NUMBER *can be ordered through any railway bookstall or newsagent or from The Publisher*, THE SPHERE, *Commonwealth House, 1, New Oxford Street, W.C.1, price 3s. By post, 3s. 3d., anywhere.*

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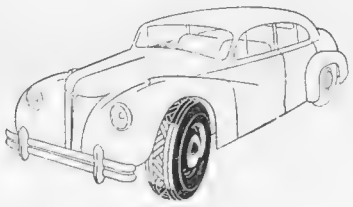

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The World of Books—By VERNON FANE

BRIDIE AND THE SASSENACHS

Some Glowing Tributes to the English in the Playwright's Lively Correspondence

MR. JAMES BRIDIE, who has written many plays for our delight and instruction, as well as being distinguished in the world of medicine, has been writing letters to Mr. Moray McLaren, whose name will be familiar to B.B.C. listeners and to the discriminating among readers of contemporary letters. Mr. McLaren has been writing back to him, and the subject of their correspondence is the English. "They love reading about themselves," he says. "Let us aim at being authoritative," writes Mr. Bridie. "It is a noble thing to be and there is money in it." A SMALL STIR—LETTERS ON THE ENGLISH (Hollis and Carter. 8s. 6d.) opens up with a declaration by Mr. Bridie that "The French, the Irish and, above all, the Scots are forever yapping and howling and complaining that the English don't understand them." He says that this is unfair, because the English take ten times more trouble to understand their neighbours than their neighbours take to understand them. He has had to do so because: "My trade of libretto writer for stage performances has made this necessary. A dairyman must familiarise himself with the habits and customs of cows." Upon this lively note the correspondence bowls merrily along, and if the authoritative note sometimes slips down a scale to a pawky poke or two, we must remember that even the most authoritative Scot must be allowed his internationally famous penchant for a joke. Being English, I must confess that I enjoyed this book. Most people, like me, will wonder what all the fuss is about but, remembering the words of the prophet Job, we shall enjoy the revelations about the Scots, the asides about the Irish and the Welsh, and hope sincerely that there is indeed money in it.

Foresters have a theory that if the heartwood of a tree is sound it takes a great deal of knocking down. That the same principle may apply to human beings is the theme of Miss Margot Campbell's first novel, in which she gives a contemporary version—or, rather, a political version—of King Cophetua and the Beggar Maid. A young girl who has made a break with the rich parents she despises, takes a job as governess in Greece just before the beginning of the war, and when she is in danger in Athens escapes to the mountains, where she works in far greater danger with the partisans, as an inexperienced but courageous nurse. Finally, she escapes from a Greek island in an M.T.B. officered by a Scot in the Royal Navy, whose only other love is Carse, the Highland castle belonging to his cousins. The girl, though not a member of the party, is ideologically a Communist, and stubbornly opposed to all that the castle stands for. The man, who is equally capable of argument, is as stubbornly devoted to the benevolent feudal rule of his family and the pride of the Highlanders amongst whom he has grown up. Nevertheless, they love each other sincerely, and for a time try with some success not to let their politics come between them. There are other considerations, too, including her justifiable mistrust of the rich American woman married to the present Marquis and owner of Carse, and his distaste for the cant which her idealism accepts as great and humane revelations. HEART WOOD (Arthur Barker. 10s. 6d.) is a sound and well-planned novel, and whether you agree with all its author's premises or with the solution that the two lovers reach, or even whether you think the whole thing a little facile, you will probably agree with me that this is an excellent performance for a first novel, and that the author is one to be watched.

Signor Daniele Varè already has a considerable literary reputation in this country, and may be best remembered as the author of *Laughing Diplomat* and *The Maker of Heavenly Trousers*. Like Marco, the young hero of THE DOGE'S RING (Methuen. 8s. 6d.), Signor Varè is a Venetian who was brought up in a Scottish castle. Atmospherically, therefore, the scenes in the Lowlands and in Venice have the authentic stamp of poetic feeling and of those things recollected in tranquillity. With engaging frankness the publisher suggests that *The Doge's Ring* is a fairy-tale, which, indeed, it is, and like most fairy-tales it has a substratum of factual veracity. In this case the Lion of St. Mark's appears at the bidding of the possessor of the Doge's Ring; the identical ring with which the Doges of Venice used yearly to perform a marriage ceremony with the sea. With the Lion acting as a sort of magic carpet, Marco, his young Scottish cousin Dorothea, and his tutor, Mr. Mackintosh, make various excursions into the past. They are able to see and talk with Marco Polo just as Kublai Khan is about to be swindled by a wily Chinese; to visit John Sobieski, King of Poland, in his decisive battle against the Turks at the Siege of Vienna; to attend upon the plundering of a Spanish galleon of the Armada off the East Coast of Scotland, and many other such realistic fantasies. To make the story of the ring as credible as fairy stories must be, a sinister character in the form of the Wandering Jew haunts all these excursions down the ages. The technique, not unknown in literature (Kipling being perhaps its most famous exponent), is delightfully used by Signor Varè, who not only carries his erudition lightly but writes English with charm and distinction.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF RICHARD JEFFERIES: In this house at Coats, near Swindon, the noted British essayist and nature-lover, the son of a Wiltshire farmer, was born just over 100 years ago. During the past summer many tourists have visited this house in the course of pilgrimages to the Jefferies country round and about the Wiltshire Downs

WHERE RICHARD JEFFERIES ROAMED: This post, high on Liddington Hill, records that this was a favourite haunt of the great nature-lover. The Jefferies cult has increased markedly during recent years

THE TWO EAGLES (Wingate. 8s. 6d.) is a rarity—a novel of Albania in the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and it is further a rarity since it is written from the point of view of the belligerent and clannish natives of the country. To the Albanians neither their country nor their people seemed in need of protection, and so when protection arrives in the shape of some bewildered Austro-Hungarian conscripts, they set about eliminating them. The picture of the defended picking off the defenders coolly and systematically is not without a certain grim humour, and Mr. Bela Illes makes the most of the fantastic situation, and of the characteristic violence of the Albanians.

Stories of adventure and high endeavour, laced with humour and fantasy, are not as yet as numerous as they might be expected to be in these early post-war years. The exploits of those brave people of both sexes whose job it was to descend into enemy territory by parachute and be engaged upon some kind of Special Operation must be a rich field indeed. In LORD HIGHPORT DROPPED AT DAWN (Cassell. 8s. 6d.), Mr. Rowland Winn evidently knows what he is writing about, down to the smallest detail of equipment and to the last comma of the orders concerned with Operation Sucking Pig. The fun begins when Lord Highport's butler, Musgrove, found a wooden case containing two dozen of Scotch dumped on the doorstep of his charming house in West Sussex. When this was followed by 20 gallons of petrol, a large pair of Canadian snow-shoes and a set of distorting mirrors, it looked as if there was Something Up. Assuredly enough it was Lord Highport who was due to go up and eventually to come down at the end of a parachute into enemy-occupied territory. That he was not supposed to be there and that his son was, and that everybody else was as bewildered about it as he was, is all part of the fun.

In 1927 Colonel J. V. Davidson-Houston, possessed at that time, one supposes, of a lesser rank, sailed for the East with the Shanghai Defence Force, to make his first acquaintance with the Orient, with hostilities, and with the vicissitudes of travel. Since that day he has covered an immense amount of territory—Japan, Manchuria, Mongolia, the U.S.S.R., Rumania, Egypt, Persia and, finally, Burma, and because his flair for Eastern languages and affairs meant that he was soon active in Intelligence work, it seems that he generally arrived, either openly or under cover, in any of these countries at the most unhealthy moments. In this way, Manchuria meant the "Incident," and China meant the outbreak of her war with Japan, just as Rumania meant a secret mission in 1939 and Burma was synonymous with the campaign under Alexander. ARMED PILGRIMAGE (Robert Hale. 15s.) is the author's account of his amazing adventures in these places, and in these almost invariably dangerous circumstances. It is written with a cool detachment that seems expressive of his habit of mind.

DR. BARRY'S MASQUERADE

The Story of a Great Impersonation

That fount of learning, the *Dictionary of National Biography*, records briefly but intriguingly that Barry, James (1795-1865), was Inspector-General of the Army Medical Department, was a woman who passed through life as a man, and is said to have been the granddaughter of a Scottish earl. After serving in Malta and the Cape of Good Hope, Dr. Barry returned to London and died at 14, Margaret Street, Marylebone, on July 25, 1865. It was only then that her sex became known, much to the horror of the Horse Guards and of her black servant, who had been with her half a lifetime. The Horse Guards ordained that she be buried as a man, with proper military honours. The *D.N.B.* describes this remarkable woman, possibly the first woman surgeon, as "the most skilful of physicians and the most wayward of men; in appearance a beardless lad, with an unmistakably Scottish type of countenance, reddish hair and high cheek-bones." With that brief summary and the fact that Barry fought a duel at the Cape and was often guilty of breaches of discipline, we have had to be content until recent times. Olga Racster and Jessica Grove, whose play about Dr. Barry entertained London some years ago, have delved as deeply as meagre documents will allow into the story of the woman surgeon, and if their researches over nearly a decade at the Cape have not borne the fullest fruit, they have none the less served to build up a more complete and even more exciting picture, a shrewd blend of fact and fiction presented in the form of Barry's diary as it might have been written. It is published under the title of THE JOURNAL OF DR. JAMES BARRY (The Bodley Head. 15s.). The book makes fascinating reading, particularly the background of life in Cape Colony. If ever a man had the right to be called "The Protector Somerset" it was surely that Lord Charles Somerset who became Governor of the Cape in 1814. Somerset was Barry's uncle, and he knew the secret of her sex. He defended her time and again from the consequences of her own temperament, and following the duel with Crozier, that "ill-bred dog" who supplied the natives with arms, saved her from public exposure when, suffering from the inevitable reaction after her bout of brilliant swordsmanship in which she wounded her adversary, she gave way to womanly hysteria. Here is a memorable character-study, a shrewd probing into the stream of consciousness of one who, running away from the husband she abominated and despised, carved for herself a career in the profession above all others which was most difficult of entry for a woman. In doing so, Dr. Barry showed herself to be a great humanitarian with a flair for getting things done. She faced hypocrisy and charlatanism wherever she set foot, and she stands unique in the annals of her profession.

The name of Sir Samuel Baker White (1821-93), pioneer, hunter and explorer, has been rather overshadowed by the posthumous fame of his contemporaries Livingstone and Gordon, but in his own day the discoverer of Lake Albert Nyanza was a vital force in African affairs. In 1869 he was commissioned by the Khedive to suppress the slave trade and open up the districts of the Upper Nile, of which districts he was made the first Governor-General. In BAKER OF THE NILE (Falcon Press. 12s. 6d.), Dorothy Middleton tells the story of this remarkable man, who, if a hero and a friend of heroes, and, above all, a man of action, preserved to the end of his days a well-balanced sense of humour and made of life "a happy journey"

To sum up the forty-eight sovereign States of America in the pages of a single volume is a near impossibility. As the Southern secessionist, the great John C. Calhoun, so clearly saw it, it is a land of sectionalism, and the measure of its unity should be a cause for wonderment rather than the extent of the cleavages among a people whose origins are to be found in all the lands of Europe and upon the Continent of Africa. In THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: THEIR CIVILISATION AND CHARACTER (Eyre and Spottiswoode. 15s.), Henry Bamford Parkes, a Professor of History at New York University, explains this sectionalism and, by drawing upon the historic past, certainly gives us a deeper understanding of the American present.

Murger's SCÈNES DE LA VIE DE BOHÈME, which brought him fame a century ago, is now republished in the Novel Library (Hamish Hamilton. 6s.). One who well and truly followed in Murger's footsteps was the Edinburgh-born painter James Pryde, who, with William Nicholson, as the Beggarstaff Brothers, was renowned in London and Paris for brilliant posters in the late '90's. Derek Hudson's life of JAMES PRYDE (1866-1941) (Constable. 21s.) is a magnificent example of the publisher's art and, in less than 100 pages, shows the development of his genius and the man himself, the now almost legendary Bohemian and wit.

In WANDERINGS IN SURREY (Skeffington. 12s. 6d.), William T. Palmer tells of enjoyable walks on commons and downs, by farms, villages and hamlets. This is a volume the country-loving Londoner will welcome with open arms.

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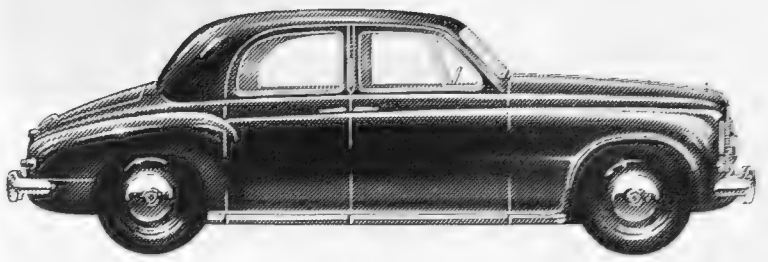

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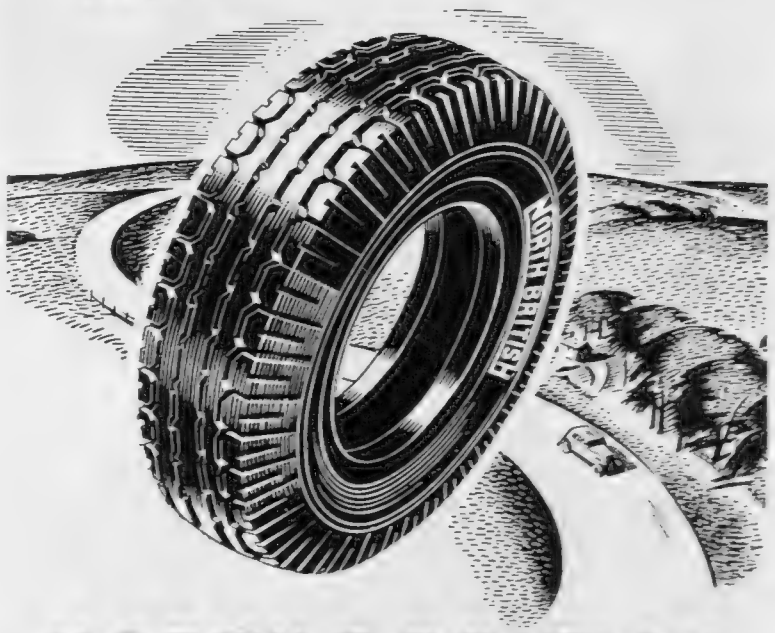

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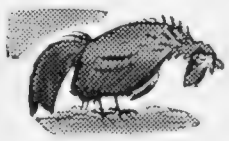

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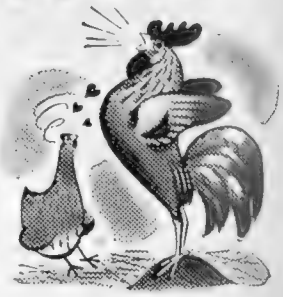

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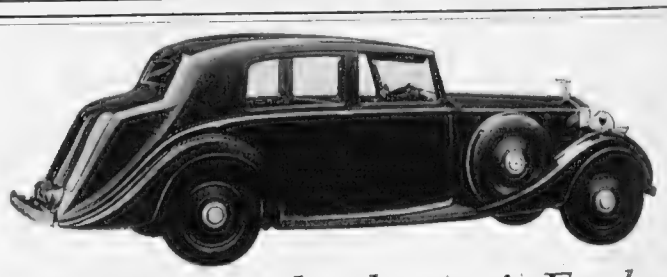

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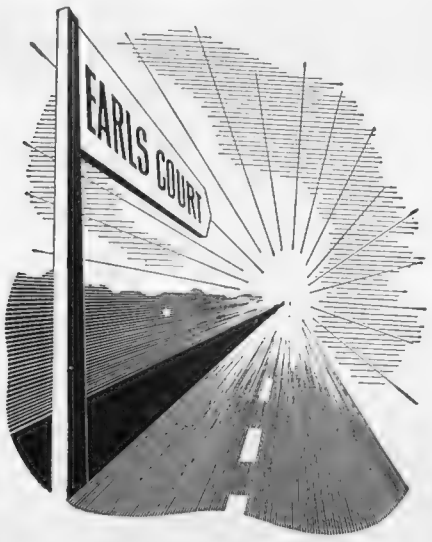

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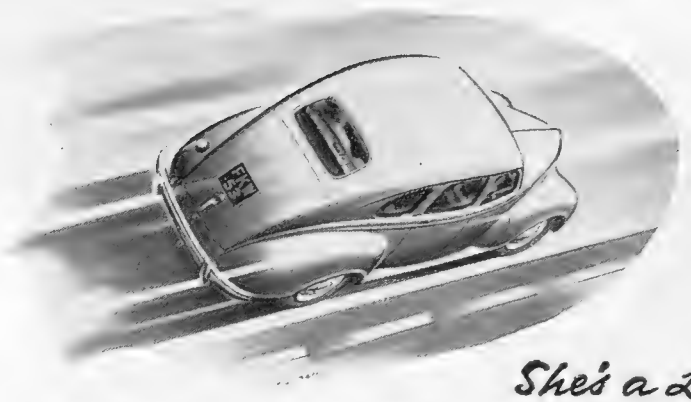

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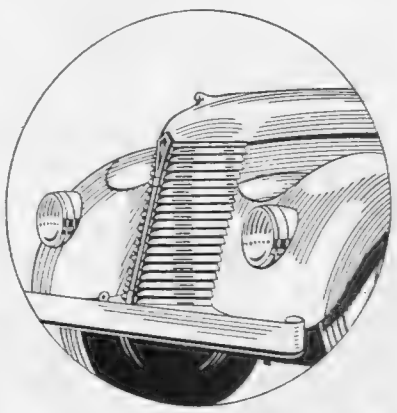

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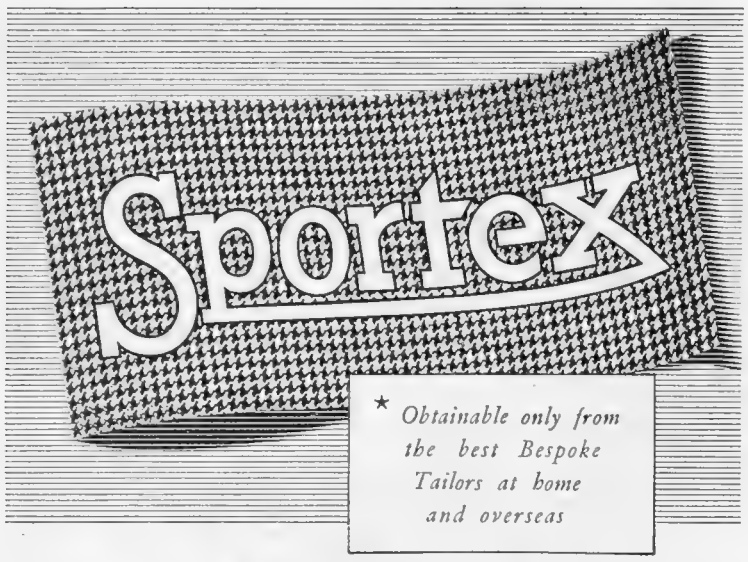

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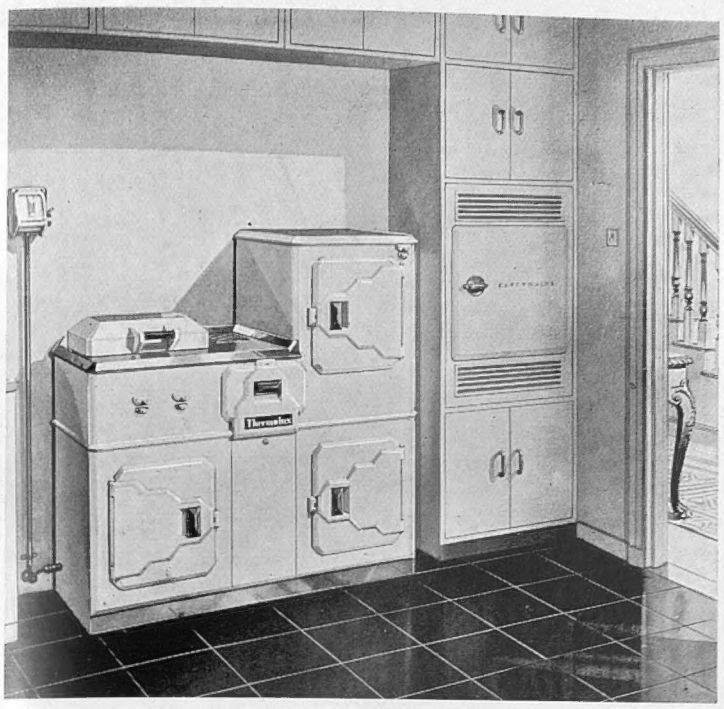

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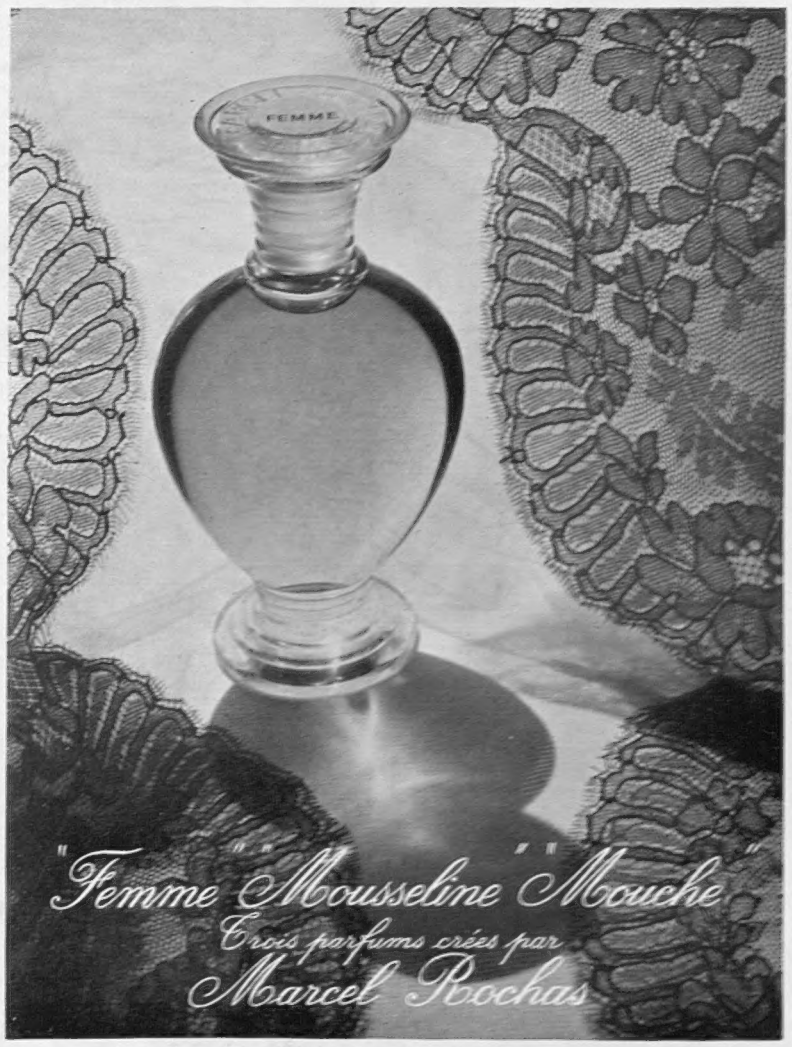

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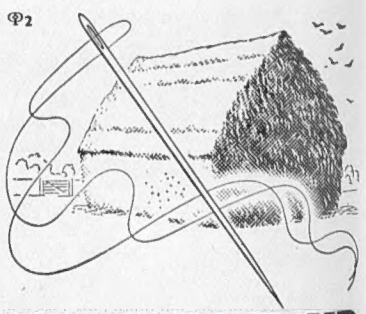

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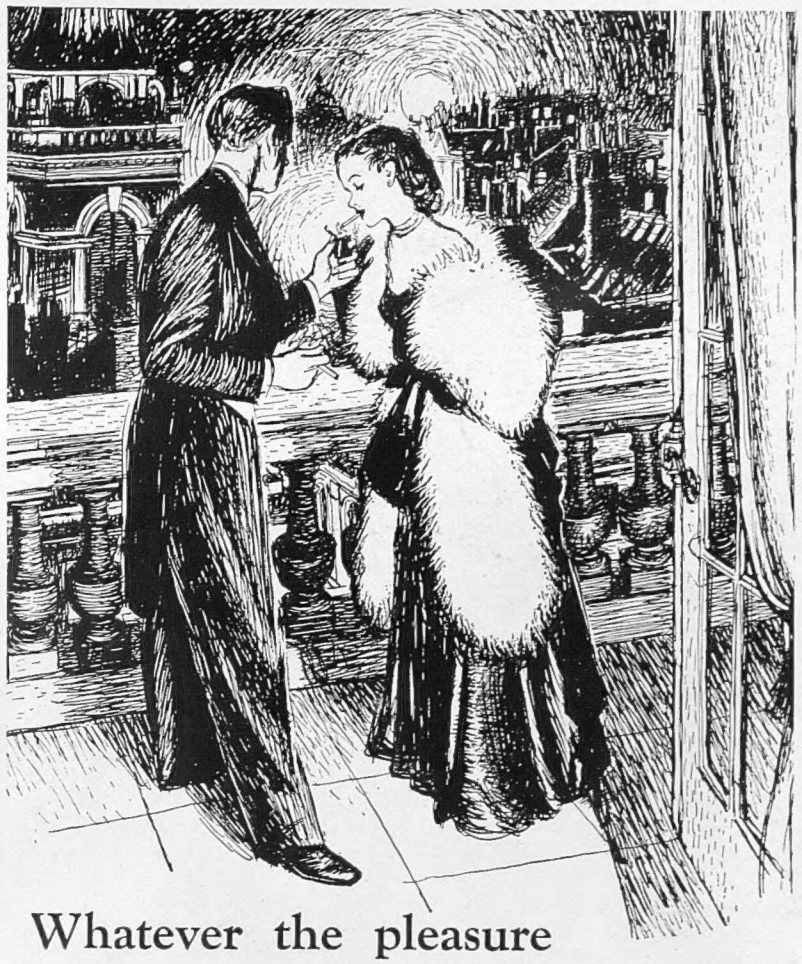

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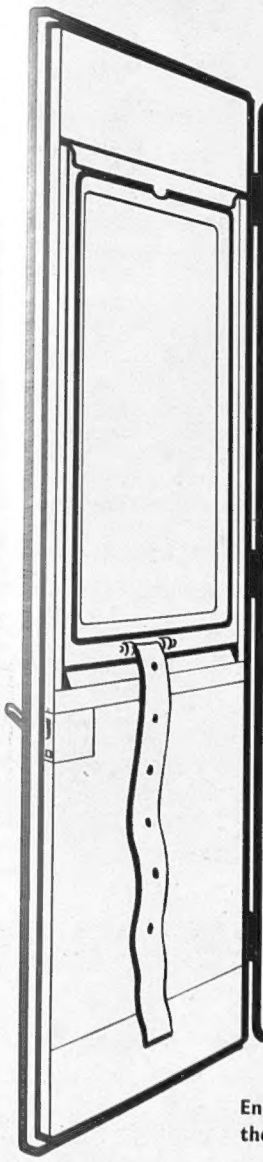

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